THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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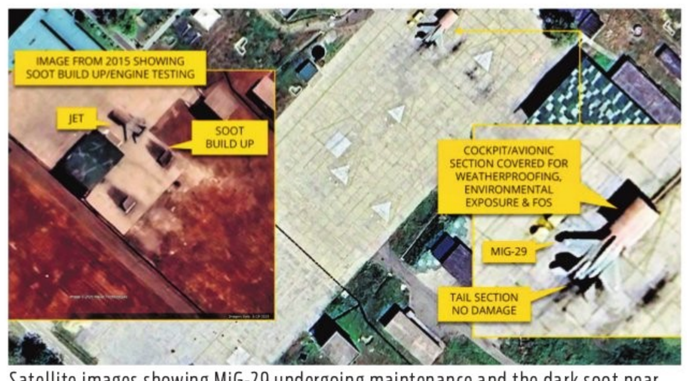


IMAGE FROM 2015 SHOWING SOOT BUILD UP/ENGINE TESTING
JET
SOOT BUILD UP
COCKPIT/AVIONIC SECTION COVERED FOR WEATHERPROOFING, ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE & FOS
MIG-29
TAIL SECTION NO DAMAGE

Satellite images showing MiG-29 undergoing maintenance and the dark soot near the engine is routine and not battle damage **PHOTO | X / DAMIEN SYMON**

**SAT IMAGES DEBUNK PAK'S STRIKES CLAIM ON INDIAN BASES**

In the aftermath of India's Operation Sindoor, Pakistan claimed successful strikes on Indian airbases at Adampur in Punjab and Bhuj in Gujarat. But multiple independent satellite imagery reviews have exposed Islamabad's assertions as fabrications. Analysis by Damien Symon, a top Open-Source Intelligence analyst, revealed that Pakistan used outdated images, misrepresented routine maintenance as battle damages on Indian forces | **P7**

सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

Viksit Bharat ka Amrit Kaal
Seva, Sushasan, Garib Kalyan ke
11 SAAL

**Welfare of Poor**
4+ crore families got **pucca houses**
**Free monthly ration** for **81 crore people**
**Free treatment** for **55 crore people** under **Ayushman Bharat**

**Opportunities for Youth**
**490** new **universities** and **8100+** new **colleges**
**1.6+ crore youth** imparted **new age skills**
**1.6+ lakh startups** across India

**Direct Support for Farmers**
**₹3.7 lakh crore** given to farmers under **PM-KISAN**
**Historic rise in MSP** to **150%** of cost
**₹1.75 lakh crore** relief under **PM Fasal Bima Yojana**

**Life of Dignity**
**12 crore** household **toilets**
**10+ crore Ujjwala connections; 15.6+ crore** households now have **tap water connections**

**Strength to Aspirations**
Income upto **₹12 lakh tax free**, more savings for **middle class**; **7** new **IITs**, **8** new **IIMs** and **16** new **AIIMS** established

**Entrepreneurship and Empowerment**
**52.5+ crore MUDRA loans** empowering **small businesses**; **10+ crore** rural women are self-reliant through **90+ lakh SHGs**

**Manufacturing Hub**
World's **second-largest mobile phone manufacturer**; **₹1.6 lakh crore** invested across 14 sectors under **PLI scheme**

**Defence Aatmanirbharta**
Aircraft carrier **INS Vikrant built indigenously**
**33x surge** in defence exports

**Metro Network Expanded**
From **5 to 23 cities**;
From **248 km** to **1000+ km**

**Dreams get Wings**
**Airports more than doubled** - From **74 to 160**
**1.51+ crore people** availed affordable air travel under **UDAN**

**Roads Driving Growth**
**National Highways** rose from **91,000 km** to **1.46 lakh km**; **570% increase** in road transport and highway budget

**Modern Railway for New India**
**Chenab Bridge** - World's **highest rail arch bridge in J&K**, **136 world-class Vande Bharat train** services are operational, **Redevelopment** of **1300+ Railway Stations** under Amrit Bharat Railway Station scheme

**Rising Bharat**
India-**4th largest economy in 2025**
India-**Fastest growing major economy**
**Per capita GDP rose** from **₹0.90 lakh** to **₹2.35 lakh**

**Pioneering in Space**
**First country to land on Moon's South Pole**
Space sector opened for private stakeholders, **Over 200 space startups**

**Virasat Bhi, Vikas Bhi**
Construction of **glorious Ram Mandir in Ayodhya**
**12+ km** long **Hemkund Sahib Ropeway project** in Uttarakhand; **642 stolen artefacts brought back** since **2014**, only **13 till 2013**

CBC 44101/13/0006/2526

**ALMANAC TODAY**

• **Monday:** 09.06.2025 • **Year:** Vishwavasu • **Ayana:** Uttarayana
• **Ritu:** Greeshma • **Masa:** Jyeshta • **Paksha:** Shukla • **Tithi:** Thrayodasi 8.37 am
• **Nakshatra:** Visakha 3.04 pm • Moon in Vrischika Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

**WEATHER**

MIN 22°C | MAX 27°C

**FORECAST**
Isolated tstorms late. Overcast

Sunrise 05.52 am
Sunset 06.45 pm
Moonrise 05.11 pm
Moonset 04.00 am

# 626 TREES FACE AXE FOR NEW JAIL IN DEVANAHALLI

## Forest dept suggests translocation

**BOSKY KHANNA** @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka State Police Housing and Infrastructure Development Corporation has sought permission from the state forest department to fell 626 trees in Devanahalli for the construction of a new non-residential building and road, part of a proposed central jail complex designed to accommodate 600 inmates.

This request comes amid rising public opposition to another controversial project by the Railway Land Development Authority, under the Ministry of Railways, which proposes cutting down 368 trees-prompting widespread citizen outrage.

In April 2025, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) invited public feedback on the jail project. Now, in accordance with the Karnataka Tree Preservation Act, 1976, the forest department has issued a public notice, dated May 31, 2025, giving citizens ten days to file objections regarding the proposed tree felling.

"We have asked the jail authorities to explore the option of translocating the trees," said a senior forest department official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "A new 153-acre tree park is being developed in Madapanahalli, Yelahanka, where an existing eucalyptus plantation is being cleared. We have adequate space there. Though translocation is expensive, we are urging all applicants seeking tree-felling permissions to consider it as a first option. Axing is easy, but conservation is now imperative."

The proposed Devanahalli open jail will span over 100 acres. The Department of Prison and Correctional Services had submitted its request for tree-felling clearance around four months ago. A team of forest officials inspected the site two weeks ago before issuing the public notice.

Santosh Kumar G, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bengaluru Rural Division, noted: "Most of the trees on the premises are Melia Dubia (commonly known as Malabar Neem), which are valued for their medicinal properties, including cancer treatment. These trees, planted in 2014, have now reached about 20 cm in girth. There is also a teak plantation on the site, for which felling permission has been denied."

A portion of the land is currently being used by inmates and staff for cultivating banana, mango, and sugarcane, along with other horticultural crops. The premises also support cattle and poultry farming. About 15 inmates are presently housed in the facility. A detailed land report has been prepared, but no final decision has been made yet, Kumar added.

A portion of the land is also used by the inmates and staffers to cultivate banana, mango and sugarcane, along with some horticultural crops. Cattle and poultry rearing is also being undertaken in the jail premises. There are around 15 inmates housed in the area. A report has been prepared of the land, but no final decision has yet been taken, Kumar added.

## Greens urge CM to stop felling of trees at Cantt Railway Colony

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**
@ Bengaluru

CONDEMNING the proposed felling of 368 trees at Bangalore Cantonment Railway Colony for construction of an IT company, Parisarakaagi Naavu (We for the Environment), an environmental group, on Saturday urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to issue a directive to protect those trees and consider designating the area as a biodiversity forest.

According to a press release, the Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) reportedly leased nearly five acres of land to the IT company sometime ago. Subsequently, a request was made to the BBMP's Forest Department to allow felling of trees on the land to facilitate construction work.

On April 25, the Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) issued a notification inviting public views/objections. Over 1,500 written and 13,000 online objections were submitted. At a public hearing on May 20, hundreds of people demanded that the trees be saved and land be allotted to the IT company elsewhere. Despite the objections, the forest department has not issued a letter denying permission. Environmentalists fear that approval may be quietly granted to cut the trees, the release said.

Members of Parisarakaagi Naavu criticised the forest department for acting against public interests and environmental sustainability. It is unfortunate that a department meant to protect trees is now considering their removal, they said.

Letters were sent to Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre on April 29 and May 17. A personal appeal was made on May 21. However, the minister cited jurisdictional constraints, stating that the BBMP's Forest Department falls under the Urban Development Department, the members said.

# IMD forecasts light to heavy rain in city this week

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**
@Bengaluru

BENGALURU is likely to receive light rain from Monday and heavy showers by the weekend, according to an India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast.

The IMD also predicted light to heavy rain for the South Interior Karnataka region, which includes Bengaluru, Chikkaballapura, Chamarajanagar, Mandya and Ramanagar on Monday. As the week progresses, the rainfall is predicted to become heavy with gusty wind and thundershowers.

According to the IMD's daily weather report released on Sunday, Southwest monsoon was normal over North Interior Karnataka and weak over Coastal Karnataka and South Interior Karnataka. Rainfall occurred at many places over Coastal Karnataka, at a few places over North Interior Karnataka and at one or two places over South Interior Karnataka.

In the weather warning report for Tuesday, one or two places in Bengaluru Rural and Urban, Chikkaballapura, Ramanagara, Tumakuru and Kolar districts are expected to receive heavy rain/thundershowers with gusty wind (40-50 kmph). "Light to moderate rain/thundershowers with gusty wind (40-50 kmph) is likely to occur at many places in Chamarajanagar, Mandya, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Mysuru, Kodagu, Ballari and Vijayanagar districts," the report read.

For Coastal Karnataka, IMD predicted light to very heavy rain with gusty wind at a few places over Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts. In areas falling under North Interior Karnataka, including Belagavi, Dharwad, Haveri and Gadag districts, the department has predicted light to very heavy rain accompanied by gusty wind.

With trace rainfall reported from Bengaluru city on Sunday, the maximum temperature was 31.8 degrees Celsius and the minimum 21.6 degrees Celsius.

**COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER**

Members of the Banjara community, under the aegis of the Karnataka Pradesh Banjara Seva Sangha, celebrate the birth anniversary of Sant Sevalal Maharaj, in Bengaluru on Sunday. Sevalal Maharaj, born in Surgondankoppa, Karnataka, is a revered figure in the Banjara community and known as a social reformer | **NAGARAJA GADEKAL**

# IIM Kozhikode's executive PG prog charts new path, B'luru fuels charge in enrolments

**RISHITA KHANNA** @Bengaluru

THE Executive Post Graduate Programme (EPGP) offered by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Kozhikode is undergoing a transformation, both in structure and reach, as enrolments soar — especially from Bengaluru and other Tier I cities.

Launched in 2001 as India's first digitally delivered management programme, EPGP was initially designed to overcome the institute's locational limitations and bring high-quality business education to working professionals who could not attend a full-time programme. Currently, it has grown into a two-year, highly adaptive course tailored for mid-career professionals seeking to move into leadership roles, with Bengaluru leading with admissions.

Officials from the institute highlighted that the average work experience of participants has increased from six to ten years and the course now includes business plan development, international immersion modules and flexible digital delivery to match the evolving aspirations of executives. The compressed structure is designed to help professionals leap into senior management positions without taking a career break.

Bengaluru has emerged as one of the biggest contributors to the EPGP cohort from Tier I cities which is contributing to over 90% of participants. Southern India alone accounts for nearly 30% of the enrolments, reflecting the rising demand for upskilling among professionals in the region. Moreover, 26% of the current batch comprises women — with mostly aiming for leadership roles in their respective fields.

Prof Debasis Chatterjee, Director, IIM Kozhikode, stressed that the institute is restructuring the programme delivery to better suit the needs of this growing and diverse base of professionals. The aim is to establish IIM Kozhikode as a national hub for executive education, he said. "Supporting this is the Laboratory for Innovation, Venturing and Entrepreneurship (LIVE), the institute's business incubator, which plays a key role in nurturing entrepreneurial talent among students. Initially launched to make Kerala a more entrepreneurial state, LIVE has incubated over 50 startups working on products ranging from robotics to early-stage cancer detection," he said.

# HC refuses to quash graft case in 'reverse trap'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**
@Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court has refused to quash a corruption case against AB Vijaya Kumar, joint director of municipal administration, who has been booked in a rare case of 'reverse trap' by the Lokayukta police.

Kumar was allegedly caught while returning Rs 3 lakh he had received as a bribe from a complainant, a priest, under the pretext of making a 'donation to the temple'. The incident occurred while Kumar was serving as the special land acquisition officer (SLAO) in the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB).

Justice M Nagaprasanna dismissed Kumar's petition, challenging the FIR registered under Sections 7(a) and 7(A) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, in 2022 and the subsequent proceedings. The court observed that a 'reverse trap' refers to a situation where a bribe-taker returns the illegal gratification to the bribe-giver, often for complex reasons.

Kumar had argued that Section 7 of the Act does not cover the return of "undue advantage". The court, however, rejected this contention, stating that the facts of the case, involving the demand, acceptance and subsequent return of the bribe, were laid out in the complaint and supported by the pre-trap and trap mahazars.

According to the complainant, Bhagath Singh Arun, he needed a no objection certificate (NOC) from KIADB to obtain the RTC for the land on which the ancient Shri Dinne Duggalamma temple stood at Laggere. Kumar, then serving as SLAO-II at KIADB, along with others, allegedly demanded Rs 4 lakh for the NOC.

Despite paying Rs 2.5 lakh to one Somanna, who was allegedly sent by Kumar, the NOC was not issued. The complainant later filed a complaint with the special deputy commissioner of KIADB. Kumar then allegedly asked the priest to withdraw the complaint and agreed to return the bribe under the guise of donating the amount to the temple.

# Public gives huge thumbs up to BMTC's 'Divya Darshana' temple tour

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**
@ Bengaluru

THE Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has received an overwhelming response to its newly launched 'Divya Darshana' package tour, which covers some of the most revered temples across the city.

Following the success of its earlier tour packages-'Bengaluru Darshini', a one-day heritage and temple tour within the city, and 'Bengaluru-Isha Foundation', a tour of attractions in and around Chikkaballapur -- BMTC officials confirmed that more than 50,000 passengers have availed of the services over the past year.

Initially launched as a weekend and public holiday service, the 'Divya Darshana' tour, flagged off on May 31, was originally planned to run only on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. However, due to the surge in demand and steady bookings, BMTC expanded the service to operate daily from June 2 onwards.

"This package has been a hit, with buses running full every day since the launch," a BMTC official said. "The tour is operated using air-conditioned buses, providing both comfort and spiritual experience to passengers."

The package is priced at Rs 450 for adults and Rs 350 for children, and includes visits to eight prominent temples in and around Bengaluru.

The AC bus departs from Kempegowda Bus Station (Majestic) at 8:30 AM, with the first stop at Sri Gali Anjaneya Swami Temple, followed by Sri Rajarajeshwari Temple, Shrungagiri Sri Shanmukha Swami Temple, Sri Devi Karumaari Ammanavara Temple, and Omkar Hills Temple. It then proceeds to the ISKCON Vaikunta Temple at Vasanthapura and the Art of Living Ashram on Kanakapura Road. On the return journey, passengers are taken to the Banashankari Temple before being dropped back at Majestic by 6 pm.

BMTC is currently assessing the total revenue generated from the package but has already labeled it a clear success. The initiative aligns with BMTC's goal of promoting spiritual tourism and providing affordable, well-organized travel options for the public.

## Daily Starscope

**PETER VIDAL**

**09TH June : Gemini is my sign of the day. As it happens, this is a sign of lovers in the broadest sense. It favours people who are in love with ideas, places and dreams as well as with other people. The flipside, of course, is that they don't often show it! Never mind. It leaves the rest of us to get on with real life.**

**ARIES** (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You're passing through a very business like phase. In fact, if you're not rushed off your feet, I'd say you're out of tune with your stars! There's no time like today for taking firm action to deal with general fitness questions, especially if there's emotional stress in the air.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21 - May 21)
This is a proud time for you, so if you feel you have good reason to show off, get on with it! Your family stars are buoyant, and you should receive much pleasure from younger relations' success. Let's face it, it's nice when others do well.

**GEMINI** (May 22 - June 21)
There are people who accuse you of talking too much, or who criticise you for always changing your mind. You may just have to ignore such types over the next few days as the stars urge you to say what you like, when you like and how you like! On the other hand, there's no point in upsetting people needlessly.

**CANCER** (June 22 - July 23)
Do speak your mind today, especially if people at work are missing the point. You should be able to explain yourself very clearly at the moment, and even when you feel that you're not getting your message across, I think that partners will get your essential drift.

**LEO** (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Just to bring you up to date on the week's emotional ramifications, it now looks as if you are about to make a very pleasant romantic discovery. First, though, you must complete a trip down memory lane. Was there something said in a letter or phone call that you haven't yet properly digested? I think there might have been.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
This is an ideal moment to make a fresh start in all areas of life, partly because one stressful cycle is going to be leaving you alone for a while. Actually, you may focus on anything concerning family relationships and affairs of the heart. A fresh perspective is also called for in a financial matter.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
You may be concerned by just how future events will work out, which might not be a bad thing if it helps focus your mind on loose ends which need to be sorted out now. A professional burden should be lifted very soon, but you may not be able to work out yet which is the right way forward. All should be revealed in its proper time.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You should accept that everyone has the right to their point of view. You may soak up as many different opinions as you can over the coming weeks, and understand that truth invariably lies in the eye of the beholder. Some people just refuse to agree with you, no matter what, but that is their problem!

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Forget the Monday morning blues: the sensible Sagittarian will be up at dawn, ready to take the world by storm. There's a cash bonus out there waiting for whoever reaches the finishing post first. However, you must be very careful to check all details yourself: there is no alternative!

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Inspiration is the key at the moment. If you pursue ideals rather than self-motivation, you'll gain. Once other people have realised that you have their best interests at heart, they'll be on your side. It's just a question of winning them over in the first place that presents the problem!

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 - Feb.19)
Venus, planet of love, is about to do a strange 'U' turn, salvaging one special emotional situation. In the meantime, you may afford to bide your time, making plans in secret. A child or younger person needs your support, perhaps because the pressures of the past are making it difficult for them to cope with the present.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20 - Mar20)
Sooner or later you will understand someone else's efforts to get close to you. Right now, in spite of your much-vaunted Piscean intuition, you may be missing all the vital messages. Perhaps you need to pay more attention to the detail and less to your day-dreams!

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

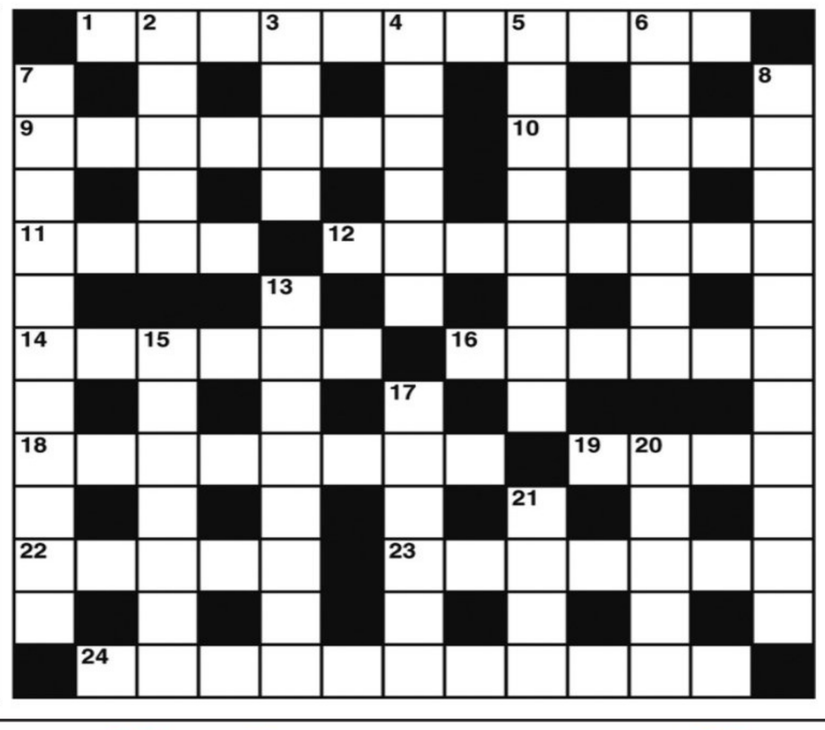
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | | 6 | | | | | 2 | |
| | | 8 | 6 | 1 | | | 3 | 9 |
| 4 | | | | 8 | | 6 | | |
| 7 | | | | 2 | 6 | 8 | | |
| | 4 | | | 3 | | | 9 | |
| | | 5 | 7 | 9 | | | | 2 |
| | | 3 | | 6 | | | | 4 |
| 6 | 1 | | | 7 | 2 | 5 | | |
| | 5 | | | | | 2 | | 1 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| 5 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 4 |
| 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 7 |
| 6 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 8 |
| 8 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 9 |
| 4 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 3 |
| 1 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 6 |
| 3 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 |

**SU DO KU EASY**

**TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE**

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



**CROSS WORD**

**ACROSS**
1 Go ahead star (4,3,4)
9 Put on a finish to a literary supplement (7)
10 Ladies attach weight to prophetic sign (5)
11 Touch with an oral greeting (4)
12 Yet a crooked dealer may deal himself one (8)
14 Italian city where planes may be changed (6)
16 Made eyes red although out of the wind at first (6)
18 Canst not be shaken (8)
19 Turning, knocks into a pole (4)
22 One step that must be taken in flight (5)
23 The case for admitting light (7)
24 Suits oneself? (4,7)

**DOWN**
2 Line of peaks and points (5)
3 The main type of eagle (4)
4 Something good to drink to (6)
5 Period of maritime decline (3,5)
6 Marriage upset a forgotten squire (7)
7 Pedestrian injured? (7,4)
8 It will be presented by a group at one (6,5)
13 Lessons in breaking rules etc (8)
15 Can come up in long boat (7)
17 Fisherman shows displeasure when lake is filled in (6)
20 A bit part (5)
21 Rising star finds love a burden (4)

**SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS**

**Across:** 1 Labels, 4 Stricken, 9 Ardent, 10 Skean-dhu, 12 Near, 13 Waits, 14 Tape, 17 Second eleven, 20 Decapitation, 23 Quiz, 24 Knelt, 25 Chef, 28 Airborne, 29 Camera, 30 Hedonist, 31 Launch.

**Down:** 1 Leanness, 2 Bad patch, 3 Line, 5 Take the field, 6 Ivan, 7 Kidnap, 8 Nausea, 11 Gale warnings, 15 Index, 16 Petal, 18 Eighteen, 19 In a flash, 21 Squash, 22 Nimrod, 26 Corn, 27 Lava.

**JUMBLE**

**UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.**

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

GRACO

TUHTR

GHAELG

NIEVID

I've got this, Pops!
You learned from the best.
Make sure you're using a clean guard.
WITH THE FAMILY BARBER SHOP NOW IN HIS HANDS, HE WAS CARRYING ON HIS ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

*Answer here:* " ____ - ____ "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: RERUN DRILL ACTUAL SWERVE
Answer: The Jack Russell loved the sofa, which was in bad shape due to the — WEAR AND "TERRIER"

# THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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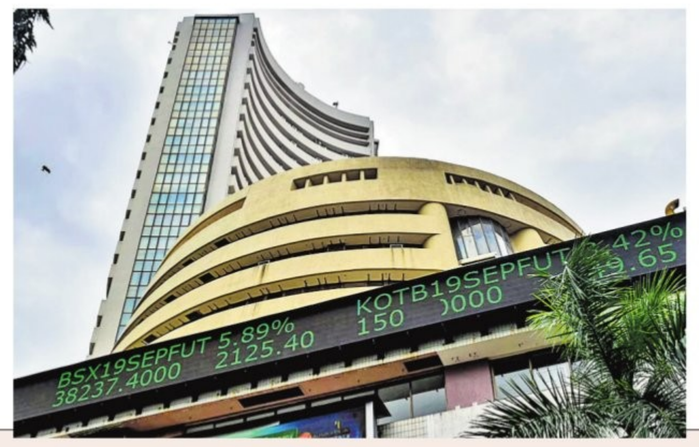



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## MAHARASHTRA, KARNATAKA ACCOUNT FOR 51% OF FDI IN FY25

**Maharashtra and Karnataka accounted for 51% of FDI inflows into the country during FY 2024-25, as per the Union government**

**DELHI, GUJARAT, TAMIL NADU AMONG TOP FIVE**

Maharashtra attracted the highest foreign inflows at $19.6 billion and accounted for 31% of total FDI during April-March 2024-25. Karnataka got $6.62 billion FDI during the last fiscal year, data showed. The two states were followed by Delhi ($6 billion), Gujarat ($5.71 billion), Tamil Nadu ($3.68 billion), Haryana ($3.14 billion), and Telangana ($3 billion)

**IMPROVEMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE HELPED**

- According to experts, the main reason for the robust inflows in Maharashtra and Karnataka is the substantial improvement in infrastructure, making them attractive destinations for FDI in India
- Total FDI, which includes equity inflows, grew 14% to $81.04 bn, as per data from Dept for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

3 yrs

THE TOTAL FDI INFLOW IN FY25 WAS THE HIGHEST IN THE LAST THREE YEARS


CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI


# Wasn't told of stampede for almost 2 hrs: Siddu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah broke his silence on the Chinnaswamy Stadium stampede tragedy, in which 11 people died on Wednesday, saying the protests by BJP and JDS are politically motivated and defended the action taken against police officers.

Clarifying his presence at Vidhana Soudha on the day of the tragedy, he said, "I wasn't even invited to Chinnaswamy Stadium. The stampede occurred at 3.50 pm, but I was informed at 5.45 pm. Action has already been taken against those responsible."

**What is my fault? BJP's sudden affection for the police is nothing but a political drama. They themselves demanded a judicial inquiry — we agreed to it. So what's the issue now?**

Siddaramaiah, CM

Dismissing allegations of BJP and Union minister and JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy, who accused him of intimidating police officials, he asked, "What is my fault? BJP's sudden affection for the police is nothing but a political drama. They themselves demanded a judicial inquiry — we agreed to it. So what's the issue now?"

On chief of Vidhana Soudha security DCP MN Karibasavana Gowda warning against holding the felicitation at Soudha, he clarified that police officials had imposed conditions for the programme which were met. "If the police agreed to the steps taken and the event was conducted accordingly, where is the mistake," he asked.

"I was not informed directly. The incident did not happen inside Vidhana Soudha. The event at the stadium was not organised by us. It's incorrect to blame Satyavati. Why should action be taken against her when the incident happened elsewhere," he asked.

The CM said it was the police commissioner's responsibility to brief him about security arrangements, which did not happen. "I was told by my secretary that the police had given permission for the event. I said okay based on that," he said.

Not only the police commissioner but five officials have been suspended, he said. His personal secretary Govindaraj was also removed. "If we were truly at fault, it would have been a black mark on the government. But there was no mistake on our part, and no such black mark exists." P4

Charred remains of a bus used for transporting central forces, which was set on fire by a mob, in Imphal East district, Manipur, on Sunday | PTI

# Fresh violence, curfew in Manipur

Violent protests erupt again following arrest of Meitei leaders; internet banned for five days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Guwahati

**LEGISLATORS MEET GUV, SEEK SOLUTION**

A multi-party delegation of MLAs met Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Sunday to seek his intervention to find an amicable solution. The governor told the delegation that all necessary steps wre being taken to restore normalcy, the Raj Bhavan said

PROHIBITORY orders were clamped in five districts in Manipur after protests erupted over the arrest of Meitei leaders. The administration also suspended internet and mobile data services, including VSAT and VPN facilities. The restrictions will remain for a period of five days in Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Bishnupur and Kakching districts.

"There is apprehension that some anti-social elements might use social media extensively for transmission of images, hate speech and hate video messages inciting the passions of the public which might have serious repercussions for the law and order situation in the state of Manipur," read a government order.

The protests started after Kanan Singh, a top leader of Meitei radical group Arambai Tenggol, was arrested along with four others on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Central Bureau of Investigation said it arrested an Arambai Tenggol member at the Imphal Airport. "He was involved in various criminal activities related to Manipur violence in 2023," it said in a statement, without disclosing the name. The CBI is investigating Manipur violence cases as per the directions of the Supreme Court.

When the forces went to take Singh into custody, they faced stiff resistance from his supporters, who burnt tyres on the roads and shouted slogans. Locals said they heard gunshots in Imphal's Kwakeithel area.

In another development, the National Investigation Agency arrested "three insurgents" in a case related to attack on security forces that had killed two police commandos.

The Arambai Tenggol has announced a 10-day statewide shutdown demanding release of their members.

# Suhas Shetty murder case: Centre orders NIA probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

THE Union government has a National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe into the murder of rowdy-sheeter and Hindutva activist Suhas Shetty.

This is seen as a setback to the Congress government which had refused to hand over the case to the central agency, saying the state police are competent enough to investigate it.

An order from the Ministry of Home Affairs said the Centre is of the opinion that a scheduled offence under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 has been committed and having regard to the gravity of the offence, its national ramifications as well as the need to unearth the larger conspiracy, it is required to be investigated by the NIA in accordance with the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.

"Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section (5) of Section 6 read with Section 8 of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008, the Central Government hereby directs the National Investigation Agency to take up investigation of the aforesaid case," the order stated.

Suhas Shetty, an accused in two murders, was travelling in a car when he was hacked to death by a gang in Bajpe police limits near Mangaluru on May 1. P5

# National Guard troops out in LA as immigration protests escalate

AGENCIES @ Los Angeles

IN a rare move, US President Donald Trump on Sunday deployed National Guard troops to Los Angeles to deal with violent protests against immigration enforcement raids.

Trump ordered the deployment of 2,000 National Guard troops against the advice of California Governor Gavin Newsom.

The development came after two days of confrontations during which federal agents fired flash-bang grenades and tear gas toward crowds angry at the arrests of dozens of migrants in a city with a large Latino population.

"The Trump Administration has a zero tolerance policy for criminal behaviour and violence, especially when that violence is aimed at law enforcement officers trying to do their jobs," White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said.

US National Guards deployed outside a federal prison in Los Angeles on Sunday following an immigration raid protest the night before | AFP

Newsom called the decision "purposefully inflammatory", adding that Trump was deploying the National Guard "not because there is a shortage of law enforcement, but because they want a spectacle."

Meanwhile, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth threatened to deploy the US military if protests escalate.

Reacting sharply to this, Newsom said it shows Hegseth's "deranged behaviour" to be "threatening to deploy active-duty Marines on American soil against its own citizens."

# Goa doctors to strike work if Rane does not apologise

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

A day after Goa Health Minister Vishwajit Rane lambasted a senior doctor at Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) and ordered his suspension in public, the Goa Association of Resident Doctors (GARD) on Sunday issued a 48-hour ultimatum to the health minister and sought a public apology, failing which they would go on indefinite strike.

On Saturday, Rane had paid a surprise visit to GMCH, located at Bambolim near Panaji. During his visit, Rane received a complaint that Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Rudresh Kuttikar was refusing to treat a patient and misbehaving, sources said. A viral video showed Rane walking into the casualty ward and confronting the CMO. "You learn to control your tongue. You are a doctor... you have to behave yourself," Rane told Dr Kuttikar. He, then, turned to GMCH medical superintendent Dr Rajesh Patil and said, "Replace him with another CMO. I want him to be suspended immediately... "

EXPRESS READ

**2026 will see NDA govts in TN, Bengal: Shah**

Madurai: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday asserted that the NDA would form governments in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal in 2026. Addressing party office bearers, he said in the 2026 Assembly election, the BJP-AIADMK will form an NDA government in Tamil Nadu. "In 2026, in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, NDA will form governments," Shah said.

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## ALCARAZ TOPS EPIC FINAL

In what was the longest French Open men's singles final (5 hrs & 29 mins), Carlos Alcaraz (in pic) made one of the biggest comebacks to successfully defend his crown against World No 1 Jannik Sinner on Sunday. Alcaraz saved 3 match points during the fourth set before going on to capture his 2nd Roland Garros crown. The Spaniard won 4-6, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (2) and now has five Major titles to his name | AFP | P11

# Teen rescued after falling into cave on Matanga Hill

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR
@Hampi, Hosapete

A 16-year-old boy from Madhya Pradesh, who was trekking alone at Matanga Hill near Hampi, fell into a cave and was successfully rescued on Sunday. The operation, which involved the Hampi Tourists helpline team, local police, fire, and emergency services, lasted several hours.

The teenager, Parv Assat — a tourist staying in one of the homestays at Hampi, accidentally slipped and fell into a deep cave. He was trapped for nearly six to seven hours before he could use his mobile phone to call the emergency number 112. The police, responding quickly, coordinated with local guides and emergency teams to locate and rescue the teenager.

Fortunately, he had not suffered serious injuries and was safely brought back to the base.

Police personnel with Parv Assat after pulling him up from a cave at Matanga Hill near Hampi on Sunday

Yaksha S, team leader, Hampi Tourist Helpline, said, "The Hampi police informed one of our team members about the incident. We are local guides and are familiar with the area where the boy fell. Along with Fire and Emergency Services, we launched the rescue operation. Despite the poor cellphone signal, the boy had called the emergency number, and thanks to our quick response, we could bring him to safety." P5

**Incident highlights the need for barricades and warning boards for the safety of tourists**

Virupakshi V, resident

The Justice HN Nagamohan Das commission, conducting a survey to collect empirical data for internal reservation for SC communities, has collected data from 90% of the SC population. The state government has asked those remaining to visit KarnatakaOne, BengaluruOne and GramaOne centres to give their data from June 9 to June 22

# Nexus between bureaucrats and politicians root cause of unrest in society: Former IGP Gopal Hosur

PIC: NAGARAJA GADEKAL

EXPRESS Dialogues

AT the heart of any sustainable solution is good governance — one that is inclusive, transparent, just and not vindictive. Governance must rise above political expediency and resist exploiting social divisions for short-term gains. Instead, it should invest in long-term social cohesion, said former IGP **Gopal B Hosur**. In an interaction with *TNIE*, he talked about coastal Karnataka, his experience working there, reasons for communal clashes and solutions too. He highlighted that governments have a tendency to withdraw cases, especially related to communal violence, saying it should not be done and the courts should decide these cases.

**You were posted in coastal Karnataka. What was your experience?**
Coastal Karnataka is unlike any other region in its geography, culture and especially its communal dynamics. When I was posted as Inspector General of Police for the Western Range nearly 15–16 years ago, I had never worked in the area before, but was aware of the tensions there. The region was tense with communal clashes, attacks and stabbings.

Despite its tensions, coastal Karnataka amazed me. It's one of the most vibrant and organised regions — Hindus, Muslims and Christians alike. Every festival or event is run better than most government functions — be it a temple fair, mosque celebration or church gathering. The people are highly enterprising and tech-savvy. However, there are deep divides, especially after the Babri Masjid incident, but the region also has immense potential — socially, economically and culturally.

**Do you think the interference of politics in bureaucracy is the main cause of communal disharmony? Has it increased over the years?**
If politics enters the administration system, it will lead to 'communal politics' which propagates violence. All parties are equally culpable. I place more blame on the bureaucracy than on the political establishment. Why don't even a few bureaucrats come together and say, "We will uphold the rule of law"?

I think over the last two decades, political interference in the bureaucracy has increased. Earlier, political leadership would listen to bureaucrats. Bureaucrats had that kind of stature, they could withstand pressure and politicians respected that. But over time, perhaps starting around 1985, when the views of elected representatives began to be considered for postings and transfers of officers, the deterioration set in. There are rare exceptions, some truly outstanding ones, and I wouldn't want to name them, but they genuinely wanted good bureaucrats posted to their jurisdictions. Unfortunately, such cases are very few. So there is a nexus between bureaucrats and politicians, and in my opinion, that is the root cause of unrest in society today.

**What needs to be done in coastal Karnataka?**
To chart a constructive path forward for coastal Karnataka, a few critical measures need to be taken. First and foremost, overall governance and administration must be significantly strengthened. This doesn't only refer to the police, but to every branch of the government that plays a role in public welfare. When governance is ineffective or absent, public disillusionment grows, and divisions in society begin to take root.

In the realm of criminal justice, the police play a vital role. Unfortunately, they often fall short in key areas. For one, police forces must clearly demonstrate their apolitical stance. They must act without partisanship and enforce the law impartially. Mere registration of cases and arrests are not enough — there must be a thorough follow-through. Offenders must face the full legal process, and the message must be sent that no one is above the law.

Leadership is crucial. If subordinates sense that their leader lacks integrity or yields to pressure, they won't follow in spirit. Instead, they may align themselves with anti-social elements. Honest, transparent leadership must extend across departments, not just the police.

The work of maintaining law and order is continuous. After a violent incident or major crackdown, the situation may calm temporarily, but that's not the end. The real work starts after the dust settles. Every case must be pursued fully: from arrest, denial of bail, dossier-building, to investigating networks of funding, political backing, and legal support. This end-to-end follow-through is vital.

Four major challenges in this region require special attention: communal tensions, left-wing extremism, underworld activities, and Islamic terrorism. Combating these effectively depends on one key factor — intelligence. In fact, 95% of successful police action is rooted in solid intelligence gathering. Because I have helped the informant, he passes on information to me. The help is mutual. Human intelligence has to come from within society. There are 10,000 policemen in coastal Karnataka and each one is an intelligence officer. When I was posted there, I made it compulsory for every sub-inspector to speak to five persons on a weekly basis. These five had to be met personally to build trust. When it comes to action, be ruthless. Be impartial in registering cases, arresting people, sending them to jails, preventing them from getting further bail, chargesheeting the case and seeing the trial through. Leadership must be for at least three years. It will not serve the purpose if the postings are for one year.

**Is police work lacking, and what needs to be done to improve?**
There is competence. They should be made to do their job. It is always a problem of leadership. Leadership means not just the police officer, but even the deputy commissioner of the district plays an important role. The whole thing will collapse if the deputy commissioner or superintendent of police, or police commissioner is corrupt. Outwardly, it looks like everything is going on smoothly, but the morale of policemen will be exploited, which will lead to a law and order situation one day.

**How crucial is information gathering and intelligence?**
It is very crucial. I had a long tenure as the head of the intelligence department, and I have worked under four chief ministers. There is an intelligence wing which has state intelligence and district intelligence. Every policeman is an intelligence officer. When the media gets so much information, the 1,200 policemen posted in the intelligence department are unable to churn out so much information. The policemen should develop the skill of getting information. Gathering information is extremely crucial, especially in avoiding communal flare-ups.

**Will the situation improve in coastal Karnataka, especially Mangaluru?**
It is a cyclical thing. Unless the administration comes down heavily and follows it up, things will not improve. This will keep repeating. Confidence-building measures are important. Come down very heavily on the fringe elements who indulge in violence. Certainty of arrests must be ensured. We do not have to hold a peace committee meeting if all people are treated equally. Never withdraw criminal cases. Governments have a tendency to withdraw cases, especially those related to communal violence. Cabinets have withdrawn cases despite recommendations by the police department not to do so. Why should the cabinet withdraw cases? Let the courts decide.

**There are allegations and perception that the police force in coastal Karnataka is divided?**
That is all because of political reasons. The influence of communal politics is also on the police force. There is a need for improvement at every level.

**Do you see this flaring up towards the assembly elections?**
Till elections come, the situation in coastal areas will be like that. Once elections are near, everything will become very quiet.

**Do you see the leadership diluting?**
Back then too we had different types of leadership, but I enjoyed the patronage of good leaders. They backed me in whatever I did. Once the confidence was built, even if I committed a mistake in the course of my duty inadvertently, they would protect me. There are instances where mistakes have been made and exemplary decisions have been taken.

**Is the government giving enough importance to the intelligence wing?**
Not enough at the moment. It should be the chief priority, not just for law and order, but governance as a whole. Its role has to be redefined as an intelligence agency for good governance. Unless it is redefined and strengthened, things will not change. Police personnel are not willing to go because the grass is greener on the other side, and they are not empowered there.

**The government has constituted a special task force. Will that help?**
That is just one tool. The task force of 248 policemen is not a solution to the problem. Two constables are enough if the intelligence network is strengthened. The task force must be used for quality intelligence. Keep monitoring everything which is happening. Display of force is only to convince the public. It is a way of posturing. It has to be done behind the scenes in a systematic way by tracking every criminal and apprehending the suspect before a crime is committed. This can be done only through intelligence support. Unless we penetrate into different organisations deeply, gathering information will be difficult. In our time, we had penetrated because we had helped some members for various other reasons. We would get information before anything would happen, as they were party to the discussion.

**Is one police commissioner enough for Bengaluru City?**
In my opinion, there should be three police Commissionerates otherwise, it is unmanageable. One at the central core of Bengaluru city, and others for the south-east and north-east. The peripheral areas should be absorbed into these commissionerates. The moment the size of the jurisdiction reduces, the delivery of services improves.

**What do you have to say about the language row?**
Language issues have always been there. They have become law and order issues now. Right from my college days when I was studying in Gokak and Belgaum, the issue was always been there. Of late, one comment gets blown out of proportion, leading to pro- and anti-arguments. There are elements who wait for such comments.

**What do you say of recent Supreme Court orders? Are they affecting the way police work?**
The police's hands are tied, and they are caught in a Catch-22 situation. Society expects crime to be controlled, but the law has not empowered you to exercise your full authority, so you cannot arrest. Police officers are in a complex situation most of the time because if they arrest, they have to show an arrest and cannot detain them. Earlier, police could detain people and keep interrogating them and verifying the information. It is not possible now. Human rights have overtaken everything else. People say it is good. But the criminal should feel the pinch of the law. There should be a certainty of conviction. Today, convictions are lower, so people can commit a crime and get away with it. They go to prison for a day, and there are enough lawyers to get them out, and after that, nobody tracks them. They go absconding and do whatever they want till they are caught again.

**What is the long-term approach to establish communal peace and harmony?**
At the heart of any sustainable solution is good governance — one that is inclusive, transparent, just, and not vindictive. Governance must rise above political expediency and resist exploiting social divisions for short-term gains. Instead, it should invest in long-term social cohesion.

**What role do the police play in this vision?**
A robust, fair and empowered police force is central. Law enforcement must have not only the mandate but also the independence and integrity to function without fear or favour. Especially in communally sensitive areas, policing decisions must be based on professional judgment, intelligence, and firm application of the law, not political considerations.

**How do you ensure such operational independence?**
It starts with insulating the police from undue political interference. Officers must be empowered to act without pressure and equipped with both human and technical intelligence to be proactive rather than reactive. Preventive intelligence — not reactive deployment — should be the first line of defence.

**What about the role of the justice system?**
A swift and credible criminal justice system is equally crucial. It not only builds public trust but also deters fringe elements who exploit delays and loopholes in the system. Accountability and speed are essential to reinforcing the rule of law.

**What needs to happen beyond policing?**
Policing can only treat the symptoms. Addressing the deeper malaise requires a multi-pronged and sustained effort, like community policing must be revitalised, regular training and sensitisation of officers should be a priority, strong accountability mechanisms must ensure excesses are addressed, and additionally, media and opinion leaders must act responsibly.

**What should be the goal?**
To move towards a model where good governance and the rule of law are not just aspirational slogans, but lived realities. Only then can we hope to truly foster communal peace and harmony.

## Speculation rife as DCM heads to New Delhi

**ENS** @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA'S political corridors are abuzz with speculation, as DCM and KPCC president DK Shivakumar jets off to New Delhi on Monday, for what he insists is a "study tour" on Solid Waste Management — but insiders hint at a far deeper political agenda brewing beneath the surface.

Shivakumar claimed that his trip was purely technical: he plans to inspect solid waste management technologies already in place in Hyderabad, Chennai, and Delhi. "The companies involved have briefed me, and I want to see how their systems actually work on the ground," he said. But even as Shivakumar packs his bags, political observers cannot ignore the timing. Just days after the tragic stampede in Bengaluru that claimed 11 lives, both Shivakumar and CM Siddaramaiah are expected to be in Delhi, raising questions about high-level consultations with the Congress high command.

Insiders hint that the duo could be briefing top Congress leaders on the fallout of the stampede, and perhaps even discussing the possibility of a cabinet reshuffle. Sources say Siddaramaiah is expected to arrive in Delhi on June 12 for a Finance Commission meeting scheduled the following day, but that's not the only item on his agenda. Speculation is rife that the CM and DCM will use the opportunity to lobby the party brass, particularly regarding the mounting public pressure after the stampede.

LoP in the Assembly R Ashoka and other BJP leaders protest at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

## BJP legislators to hand over a month's salary to victims' kin

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @ Bengaluru

MEMBERS of the BJP staged a protest in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue on the Vidhana Soudha premises on Sunday, demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar in connection with the stampede at M Chinnaswamy Stadium here, which claimed 11 lives. They demanded that the government pay compensation of Rs 1 crore, while BJP legislators themselves have resolved to hand over a month's salary to the victims' family members. Ashoka also demanded that the state government call for a special session to discuss the issue.

Ashoka said the government ignored police advice and the Congress leaders violated law. He alleged that had Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar not engaged in a power struggle, students would not have lost their lives. "Instead of consoling the families, they were focused on securing a trophy. The police had informed them of the first death by noon. Eight children had already died when the event began, yet the programme continued, showing that these leaders have hearts of stone," he accused.

Further, Ashoka allleged that on June 4, 2025, Vidhana Soudha police wrote to the Chief Secretary, clearly stating that the event was organised in haste, and due to staff shortage, security arrangements would be compromised. "Police had instructed that department staff and their families should not attend, yet families were present," he added. Further, Ashoka said instructions for CCTV cameras were ignored, and drones were used despite prohibition. The directive to limit the stage to 20-30 people was completely violated, with 200 people, including 11 players being present," he said.

## SOUDHA SECURITY CHIEF WARNED STATE GOVT AGAINST RCB EVENT

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @ Bengaluru

FOUR days after the M Chinnaswamy Stadium stampede that claimed 11 lives during the RCB victory celebrations, a letter by the head of security at Vidhana Soudha, opposing the RCB felicitation event on the grand steps of the building is doing the rounds.

The letter, written by Deputy Commissioner of Police (Vidhana Soudha Security) MN Karibasavana Gowda to the secretary of the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR), warned in advance about the risks of holding a felicitation for RCB players. The letter was written on Tuesday morning, a few hours before the programme was held at Vidhana Soudha in the evening.

The DCP's letter, sent in response to a request from the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), seeking permission to felicitate RCB players at Vidhana Soudha, outlined 10 points and stated that organising such an event in accordance with protocol would require sufficient preparation time. However, he added that the event would proceed as per the government's decision.

Gowda noted that the RCB cricket team has a huge fan base across the country, and organising the event in haste could attract lakhs of fans. Due to a shortage of officers and staff in the Vidhana Soudha security division, maintaining security could become difficult. Moreover, deploying sufficient personnel for security would require adequate time. He also highlighted the need for coordination with law and order as well as traffic police, both of which require adequate time for planning.

The letter also stressed the need for CCTV surveillance and recommended restricting the issuance of public entry passes to the building on the day of the event. He requested that the secretariat staff be granted leave in the afternoon of June 4, as they might attend the event and bring their family along.

CM Siddaramaiah speaks to media in Mysuru on Sunday | EXPRESS

## There was no mistake on our part, says Siddu

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

TO Kumaraswamy's charges that the stampede dented the image of the government, he said BJP did not comment when a bridge collapsed on the day of its inauguration and stampede at the Kumbh Mela. He pointed out that BJP initially criticised the government and Home Minister G Parameshwara for not allowing the RCB roadshow. It said the government was not allowing the parade so that they can see their favourite cricketers from close proximity. But they changed their tone after the stampede, he added.

Siddaramaiah said BJP would have cooked up a different story if the government had organised the felicitation at the stadium. He defended action taken against police officers and the case registered against KSCSA and RCB.

Asked whether the Chinnaswamy Stadium would be shifted out of the city limits, he said the government will examine the possibility.

On 5,000 NREGA employees not being paid salaries for the last seven months, he said the Centre is not releasing the NREGA funds on time, causing a problem. He said this is happening in other states too.

A 36-year-old private sector employee died after he accidentally fell from the terrace of a two-storey building while drinking. The incident took place near Kadamba Layout in Jnanabharathi police station limits on Saturday night. The deceased has been identified as Manjunath

# PMO wants 20 mining blocks revived

HEMANT KUMAR ROUT
@ Bhubaneswar

WITH at least 20 non-coal mining blocks in Odisha, auctioned between 2016-17 and 2022-23, continuing to be non-operational due to delays in statutory clearances and administrative apathy, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has stepped in to speed up their progress.

Of the 44 non-coal mining blocks auctioned during the seven-year period, nearly half have failed to commence production despite regular reviews at the state-level and the PRAGATI cell of the PMO. That Odisha is facing huge revenue loss due to the delay notwithstanding, sources said, the issue has now drawn the attention of the highest level with principal secretary to the Prime Minister reviewing the status.

Firms like Rungta Mines Ltd, Tata Steel Ltd, Vedanta Ltd, JSW Steel Ltd, Triveni Earthmovers Ltd, Dalmia Cement, Kashvi Power & Steel (P) Ltd, Kalinga Alumina Ltd, Ambuja Cement are among those yet to commence operations on their allotted blocks. According to a review, Rungta Mines Ltd has several iron ore blocks like Pureibahal, Chandiposhi, Jhumka-Pathiriposhi, Kendudihi North, and Kedesala North-East that are pending operationalisation. While procedural steps have been initiated, the company cited delays in forest clearance (FC) and difficulty in accessing remote, forested sites as key hurdles.

Initially leased in favour of Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd, which has subsequently been taken over by the JSW Steel Ltd, the stage-II FC is still awaited.

The preferred bidder for the Jagadalpur graphite block failed to apply for any clearances after securing the letter of intent (LoI), prompting the state to consider revoking it. Similar action is being initiated in the case of the Behera-Bhanjapalli limestone block. Additional chief secretary of Steel and Mines department Surendra Kumar said the government has constituted a state-level project monitoring and coordination committee for monitoring coal and non-coal projects and reviewing the status of operationalisation of the auctioned mining blocks.

"As per MMDR ACT, lessees have a certain timeline within which they have to get necessary clearances and approvals like completing land acquisition, obtaining necessary clearances like FC, EC, consent to operate and consent to establish, etc. Obtaining clearances and approvals is the primary responsibility of the lessee," he told *TNIE*.

Union Minister Shivaraj Singh Chouhan during the launch of Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan on Sunday | EXPRESS

# Union min Chouhan bats for 'ONOE'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

HOLDING multiple elections around the year is one of the biggest hurdles preventing India from transforming into 'Viksit Bharat' (a developed nation), the Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Sunday. Advocating strongly for the "One Nation, One Election" proposal, the senior BJP leader said that constant election cycles drain the country's time, energy, and resources.

He was speaking at an interaction programme on "One Nation, One Election" organised by the BJP. "India's path to becoming a Viksit Bharat is being delayed because leaders, officials, and political workers are in campaign mode all year long, pushing the governance to the background," Chouhan said. He mentioned that leaders from all political parties are forced to prepare for elections every month. Citing his experience, he said "I was made Agriculture Minister, and just four days into the role, the party asked me to go to Jharkhand for campaigning. How can anyone focus on ministerial duties in such a situation?" he asked.

He argued that if all elections — from Lok Sabha to Vidhan Sabha — were held together, ministers and party workers would be able to dedicate the remaining four to five years fully to public service. "Why should our country keep wasting crores of rupees, government machinery, and party funds every few months? Even updating the voters' list is a huge task. And then comes the publicity, campaigning, and mobilisation," the minister said. The union minister urged social media influencers also to join a movement.

# Revanth gets 3 new mins in, leaves 3 vacancies

B KARTHEEK @ Hyderabad

AFTER weeks of speculation and backroom talks, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Sunday expanded his Cabinet by inducting three new ministers. But instead of filling all six vacant posts, the Congress high command opted to appoint just half, signalling its focus on caste balance while leaving several powerful leaders, especially from the Reddy community disappointed and waiting.

Governor Jishnu Dev Varma administered the oath to Adluru Laxman, G Vivek Venkataswamy and Vakiti Srihari at Raj Bhavan at 12.19 pm, bringing the Cabinet strength to 15 out of the sanctioned 18. The portfolios for the new ministers are yet to be announced. Laxman belongs to the SC-Madiga community, Vivek to the SC-Mala group, and Srihari to the BC-Mudiraj community.

The move stunned many, particularly the induction of two ministers from the Scheduled Castes, despite earlier signals that the remaining slots might go to aspirants from the ST, BC, Minority, and Reddy groups. The inclusion of both Mala and Madiga representatives is seen as a nod to Telangana's SC subcategorisation. Srihari's appointment also holds significance, as the Mudiraj community, one of the largest BC groups, has long sought representation. His elevation is being viewed as a strategy ahead of local body elections.

# Seven, including minor, held for suitcase murder

RAKSHITH GOWDA @Bengaluru

THE Surya City police have arrested seven people, including a minor, in connection with the murder of a 17-year-old girl from Bihar, who was allegedly killed by her relative in Bengaluru. Police said they plan to invoke provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, as the postmortem report confirmed the victim had been sexually assaulted.

The girl's body was found stuffed inside a blue suitcase and abandoned near the railway tracks in Chandapura on May 21. The victim had arrived in Bengaluru on May 18 with her relative Ashiq Kumar (42). When her family was unable to contact her or Kumar, they filed a missing person complaint at a local police station in Bihar on May 23.

A senior officer told *TNIE* that the suitcase contained only the body, with no identification or belongings, making identification and investigation more difficult. Photographs of the deceased were circulated nationwide, and two days later, Surya City Police Inspector Sanjeev Kumar Mahajan received information that helped identify the girl.

Call detail records (CDRs) led police to Kumar's rented house in Bommasandra, but he had already fled to Bihar. The house owner had said that a violent altercation between the girl and Kumar had occurred on May 21, during which windows were broken. Kumar had promised to pay for the damage. CCTV showed Kumar and three others carrying a suitcase into a cab and later abandoning it near a railway bridge around 11.30 pm.

A nine-member police team was sent to Bihar, and seven suspects, including a woman and a minor, were apprehended and brought to Bengaluru.

Kumar, who is married and has two children, had lured the victim to Bengaluru under the pretext of love. He was staying at the house of his friend Mukesh Kumar and his wife Indu Devi, where he took the girl. On May 20, a heated argument broke out after the woman insisted that he marry her. Kumar allegedly strangled her and assaulted her with a rod.

**ARTISTIC GRANDEUR**

Artist Puneeth and his team design a 8,000 sqft rangoli of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar in front of Mysuru Palace | UDAYASHANKAR S

### DRI NABS 2 WOMEN FOR DRUG SMUGGLING

Bengaluru: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) arrested two women on Friday for their involvement in drug smuggling. According to a press release, the DRI apprehended one of the women after she arrived from Delhi and was seen handing over a parcel to the second woman. The parcel had four packets of soya chunks, which concealed crystalline substances containing drugs, weighing around 2 kg and valued at Rs 4.12 crore. Tests conducted by officials confirmed the presence of amphetamine. Both women have been booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. ENS

# Teenager fell into 10-15 feet deep cave: Cop

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

NAGARAJ H, a police official in Hampi, said, "The boy fell into the cave that is around 10-15 ft deep. He was trekking alone when he lost control and fell. After six to seven hours, we successfully rescued him after he called the emergency number."

Virupakshi V, a local resident and social activist, expressing his concern over safety measures at Matanga Hill said, "For the past decade, we've been urging the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and other authorities concerned to install safety barricades at dangerous curves of Matanga Hill. No action has been taken. This incident highlights the need for barricades and warning signs."

The police have advised tourists to avoid solo treks and to inform local authorities or guides before venturing out.

# Madhu Pandit Dasa played key role in protecting interest of ISKCON B'luru

Madhu Pandit Dasa (with garland) along with other members of ISKCON Bangalore | EXPRESS

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

AFTER many years of legal struggle, the Supreme Court's recent decision finally settled a long-standing dispute over the Hare Krishna Hill temple in Bengaluru. This temple is one of the important centres of ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness). At the centre of this fight was Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa, president, ISKCON Bengaluru, who played a key role in protecting the rights of ISKCON Bengaluru and ensuring that the temple remained under the control of local devotees.

ISKCON was started in 1966 by Srila Prabhupada to spread the teachings of Lord Krishna. One of the movement's major centres in India was established on a 6.5-acre piece of land on Hare Krishna Hill in Rajajinagar, Bengaluru. The Karnataka government gave this land in 1988 to the local ISKCON group, which was led by Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa and others. Over the years, they built the temple and developed the area into a spiritual centre where devotees could come to pray.

Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa joined ISKCON in 1981 during his engineering studies and soon became one of the main leaders in Bengaluru. Using his education and devotion, he helped build the temple complex and grow the community from a small group to a network with many centres even in abroad.

After Srila Prabhupada passed away in 1977, disagreements arose within ISKCON about who should lead the movement. Prabhupada had asked that initiations be done on his behalf even after his death, but some senior disciples started acting as independent gurus. This caused divisions, including in Bengaluru and Mumbai.

In 2000, ISKCON Mumbai filed a legal claim to take control of the Bengaluru temple. Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa and the Bengaluru group opposed this, arguing that the land and temple belonged to their registered society and had been developed by their community. The case dragged on in courts for 25 years. Throughout this time, Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa kept working to protect the temple. When the Supreme Court suggested a settlement, Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa was open to compromise, even offering to step down from his leadership position to maintain peace, as long as the Bengaluru group could continue their way. But the other side didn't agree.

Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa, meanwhile, also founded The Akshaya Patra Foundation, which provides free meals to schoolchildren across India. The Supreme Court's final ruling in favour of ISKCON Bengaluru is seen as a victory for Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa and the devotees who stood by him. It allowed the temple and its land to remain with the Bengaluru society. Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa's role was not just that of a legal representative but of a leader who stood firm for his community's beliefs and worked patiently through many challenges. His work helped protect a place that means a lot to many devotees and ensured that the legacy of ISKCON Bengaluru would continue.

# DK MP thanks Shah for NIA investigation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

THE police booked a case under Sections 189(4), 191(2), 191(3), 126(2), 109, 118(1), 103(1), 61(1), 62, 351(2), 351(3), 190 of BNS, 2023 and sections 3(1), 25 of Arms Act, 1959. Twelve people have been arrested in connection with the case. The Home Ministry's order states that the case attracts Sections 10 r/w 41, 13, 15, 17, 18 & 20 of UA(P) Act, 1967, as it is related to targeted killing of an individual in public view with the intention to create terror in the minds of people and the accused persons involved in the case are allegedly members of Popular Front of India (PFI), an unlawful association.

Dakshina Kannada BJP MP Capt. Brijesh Chowta thanked Union Home Minister Amit Shah for the NIA probe. Chowta had written to Shah, saying an NIA probe is needed to dismantle a nexus of anti-national forces like PFI whose cadre now function as SDPI members and fuel such activities.

Chief Minitser Siddaramaiah said he will talk to the advocate general.

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The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 09.06.2025 to 24.06.2025 up to 14.00 Hrs. Due date for submission of Bid is 24.06.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs, Technical bid opening 24.06.2025 @ 16.00 Hrs. For further details Please refer to www.apeprocurement.gov.in and www.crda.ap.gov.in.
Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Vijayawada

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform General Public, my Client Smt. KAVERAMMA, aged about 50 years, W/o Late SUBRAMANYAM S., residing at No. 56/2, 1st Main Road, 5th Cross, Downlane, K.E.B. Bescom, J.J.R. Nagar North, Bangalore - 560018, Aadhaar No. 4026 1961 7399
My client Smt. KAVERAMMA, owner of the
a) Property No.47, situated at Marenahalli Tank Bed, 20th Cross Road, Bangalore South, measuring East to West 15 feet and North to South 20 feet, totally measuring 300 Sq.ft., Sale Deed Reg. document No. JAY-1-04029 / 2004-05 dated 05-10-2004 and Rectification deed Reg. document No. JPN-1-04116/ 2014-15, dated 08-07-2014.
b) Property No.47, PID NO.58-186-46, situated at Marenahalli Tank Bed, 20th Cross Road, Bangalore South, measuring East to West 15 feet and North to South 20 feet, totally measuring 300 Sq.ft., Sale Deed Reg. document No. JPN-1-08524 / 2012-13 dated 18-01-2013 and Rectification deed Reg. Document No. JPN-1-04118/ 2014-15, dated 09-07-2014
My client hereby declare that property related Original document Viz: Sale Deed Reg. document No. JAY-1-04029 / 2004-05 dated 05-10-2004 and Rectification deed Reg. document No. JPN-1-04116/ 2014-15, dated 08-07-2014 and Sale Deed Reg. document No. JPN-1-08524 / 2012-13 dated 18-01-2013 and Rectification deed Reg. Document No. JPN-1-04118/ 2014-15, dated 09-07-2014 misplaced/lost within the limits of JJR Nagar Police Station, Bangalore. After thorough search she was not able to locate the same. In this behalf lodged online police complaint Vide Serial No. 1637719, Vide Lost Report No.1637719/2025, Dated 04-06-2025 and as such through this Public Notice he has confirmed that the above said original possession document has been lost.
If anybody finds / traces the said original documents, it is requested to contact and handover to the under signed immediately.
SHIVANNA, Advocate
No.28 12th Main Road, 4th Block East, Jayanagar, (Near Sub-Registrar Office), BANGALORE-560 011. Ph: (M) 9901507257
Property owner signature
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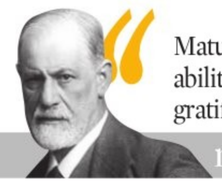
# EDITORIAL



Maturity is the ability to postpone gratification — Sigmund Freud

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

## AXIOM-4 SPACE MISSION WILL BOOST ISRO'S FUTURE CREWED TRIPS

THE $64-million Axiom-4 (Ax-4) Space Mission is scheduled to lift off from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, USA, on June 10. It can help the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) reap benefits for its future manned space missions. India's maiden crewed space mission, Gaganyaan, is scheduled for 2027, and one of the four astronauts chosen for it, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, is the pilot for the Ax-4 Space Mission. Other crew members include former NASA astronaut and director of human spaceflight at Axiom Space, Peggy Whitson of the USA, as the mission commander; and two mission specialists, European Space Agency project astronaut Sławosz Uznański-Wiśniewski of Poland and Tibor Kapu of Hungary.

For the record, SqLdr Rakesh Sharma became the first Indian to go into space in April 1984, and Group Captain Shukla—the second Indian to follow suit after nearly 41 years—will be the first Indian to pilot a spacecraft. Piloting the SpaceX Dragon, Shukla will be responsible for docking the vehicle with the International Space Station and undocking for its return to Earth after the 14-day mission. Incidentally, ISRO's own Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) has been ongoing in autonomous mode since January, during which two satellites, each weighing just 220 kg, are undergoing docking and undocking procedures in space at an orbital altitude of 400 km.

ISRO has planned mega-manned missions ahead, with its indigenous space station, Bharatiya Antriksh Station, scheduled for completion by 2035 and its first manned lunar mission by 2040. They will involve docking/undocking procedures, besides a slew of crucial experiments in space, for which the Ax-4 space mission would be a valuable source of data and experience through Shukla's involvement. The Ax-4's crew will conduct approximately 60 scientific studies representing 31 countries, including India. Expected to be one of the most intense research- and science-related missions aboard the ISS, it involves research on the impact of microgravity on human health, Earth observation, and life sciences, as well as biological and material sciences, demonstrating the space research capabilities of the crew's home nations. It will enhance knowledge among diverse stakeholders, including students, academics, and members of the space industry, through live interactions with the crew on issues related to survival in space and space technologies — all crucial for India's future manned space missions.

## LOWER COMMUNAL IRE IN COASTAL KARNATAKA

AFTER a considerable lull, communal tensions are simmering again in Karnataka's coastal belt. Three back-to-back murders have kept up the heat over the past month. While Ashraf, a migrant worker from Kerala, was lynched on April 27, Bajrang Dal worker Suhas Shetty was hacked to death on May 1 in Dakshina Kannada's Mangaluru. A revenge attack on May 27 left Abdul Rahiman dead and Shafi grievously injured. The killings happened in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, polarising the situation further. Both communities accuse the government of bias: Hindutva activists claim the Siddaramaiah government did not visit the family of Suhas, while Muslims say no Congress leader condemned Ashraf's lynching. Suhas was accused of the 2022 murder of Fazil, whose brother reportedly orchestrated Suhas' killing.

In this situation with a low trust deficit, the government has announced the formation of a specialised anti-communal task force exclusively for the Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts, where communal strife, moral policing, and hate speeches are the norm. The force, modelled along the Anti-Naxal Force, will be headed by an IGP-rank officer and will absorb experienced personnel from the ANF. It aims to crack down on hatemongering and bring peace to a region fractured by communalism. It will be a holistic exercise focussing on dialogue and reconciliation, involving respected community leaders and spiritual heads.

The government should be commended for its initiative to heal the region, which has been ravaged by a revenge-killing saga spanning over two decades. The killings have shades of a local gang war, and the leading players are political activists said to have links with the Popular Front of India, Social Democratic Party of India, Bajrang Dal, Vishwa Hindu Parishad and fringe Hindutva outfits. These outfits have a stake in keeping the communal cauldron boiling to reap electoral dividends. A strong saffron presence dominates the coastal districts, contributing the largest number of legislators and parliamentarians for the BJP. While the government realises it must break the cycle of violence, it needs support from all quarters to end the radicalisation. It will have to adopt a dual approach of strict action against troublemakers while simultaneously encouraging a syncretic culture, which could paper over the cracks and lead to eventual harmony. Hopefully, no other district will need such a task force.

QUICK TAKE

### RETAIN TO TRAIN

HOW are MIT or Stanford whisking away our brightest young minds from IITs? This trend of JEE Advanced toppers quitting or ignoring IITs and opting for the US is gaining momentum. In 2025, too, a top-ranked opted for MIT. It's as if top American institutes trust the JEE exams to identify and lure the brainy. The first-ranked MIT understandably appears attractive. The IITs rank competitively in engineering and computer science, but their R&D and innovation standards in pure sciences must hold students' attention. Organising 'exit' interviews for these youngsters is one way to know what influences their decisions. Educators must realise that brain drain doesn't help retain institutional reputations.

Modi has, once again, outsmarted the Opposition by co-opting their best and brightest, with free junkets for them at taxpayers' expense, and great publicity for the ruling regime

## BUSINESS OF POLITICS AFTER BUSYNESS OF WAR



MAKARAND R PARANJAPE
Author and commentator

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

SOURAV ROY

AFTER the immensely successful and strategically path-breaking "Operation Sindoor," it is back to business as usual in India that is Bharat. By business, I mean politics. Because politics isn't just about gaining and retaining power, whether at the Centre or the states, it is also India's biggest business.

Of course, going back to its original meaning, by "business", I also mean whatever keeps us busy. Nothing preoccupies the nation, as we know only too well, as much as politics. It is so ubiquitous and pervasive that it obsessively involves us in almost all aspects of our lives—from the family to the nation. That is why I rate it higher than Bollywood, cricket or, for that matter, even religion, as both our national passion and pastime. Not to speak of our topmost source of information and entertainment. And given the wartime—or now post-war but still hostile—environment, the distinction between information and entertainment could not be more blurred.

"Operation Sindoor" was a series of strikes so precise, so restrained, yet so audacious that the world paused to take notice, albeit grudgingly. The whole country, on the other hand, was agog as the Indian armed forces, with their deadly resolve and impeccable aim, delivered a resounding slap to the face of "rogue nation" Pakistan.

The result? Mission accomplished. A masterclass in military might.

However, throughout the conflict, we were also embroiled in a deafening, at times sickening, misinformation battle. Not only with our enemy but with ourselves. With political parties jockeying to position themselves as adversarial beneficiaries. Did we forget that we were at war with Pakistan, not with each other?

The result? A masterclass in political theatrics, starring none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the main, if not sole and singular, protagonist of this blockbuster. And why not? The nation is no longer at war. Therefore, we must revert to our favourite melodrama, national politics.

Forget the soldiers, the strategists, or the intelligence operatives. Forget even the victims of Pahalgam. All of them were important in drumming up national sentiment when we were fighting. Now, it is open season again when it comes to divisive rhetoric and political propaganda. Again, the winner is clearly Modi. He has, once again, outsmarted the Opposition by co-opting their best and brightest to blow his trump and march to his drumbeat—free junkets for them at taxpayers' expense, great publicity for the ruling regime.

Who would grudge Modi the spotlight, even if it is roundly, if not exclusively, focused on him? He is dressed for the occasion, with changing headgear suited to different venues. The saffron Modi-Bundi-clad camp followers serve merely as background adornment.

The Opposition is, once again, in disarray. Fighting among themselves, scoring self-goals galore, diminishing the prestige of the nation whenever they can, except the lucky ones who got to represent India overseas.

In both the domestic and international sweepstakes, the winner takes all. And who is the winner? Modi, of course. With a compliant media and an army of trolls, no longer watchdogs but rather lapdogs. "Godi," let us not forget, means lap.

When Operation Sindoor was greenlit, Modi stood tall. He deserves all the credit for leading the nation with determination and fortitude through a difficult interlude. By declaring that he had given the armed forces a "free hand," he unleashed a never-before-seen counterstrike. Let the professionals do their job, right?

However, the moment the mission succeeded, Modi swooped in like a Bollywood hero crashing a villain's lair, stealing the thunder with as little subtlety as the latter. The armed forces? Relegated to the background like extras in a Modi biopic, showering rose petals on him, families included. Wasn't that in bad taste? But who dares to say it? The nation's victory was branded, packaged, and sold as "Modi's Triumph".

Isn't the script familiar? Even the dialogue is Bollywoodesque, reminiscent of *Sholay: "Sukh Chain Se Roti Khao, Warna Meri Goli To Hai Hi."* Modi's narrative machine has kicked into overdrive, churning out press releases, tweets, and carefully staged photo-ops. Who's to complain? The crowds and the masses love it. Who needs King Khan when they have *Hindu Hriday Samrat Modi*?

The national hero's face is everywhere. The directive is clear: this is Modi's show, and no one else gets a speaking role. It's not just a military victory; it's a Modi victory, a Brand Modi extravaganza, complete with hashtags, memes and catchy slogans. "Just Modi is Enough" is back, baby, and it's louder than ever.

With elections looming in Bihar, Modi's re-playing his greatest hits. The strategy is simple. Flood the airwaves and wifi with his image, his voice, and his undeniable Modi-ness. Operation Sindoor isn't just a geopolitical win; it's an ad campaign ad.

But here's the kicker: this isn't Modi's first rodeo. The "Just Modi is Enough" shtick has been trotted out before, and the results have been ... let's say, mixed. The BJP's past attempts to make elections a referendum on Modi's charisma haven't always panned out. Voters, it turns out, are pesky creatures who care about things like jobs and roads and not having to dodge potholes the size of small lakes.

In 2019, Modi's larger-than-life persona failed to get his party past the 240 mark. Forget about 300, let alone *400-paar*. Shouldn't real nationalists, especially those who value India more than any individual leader's personality cult, sound a warning note? I have, I confess, often been branded and, at many times and in many contexts, rendered akin to "untouchable" as a Modi supporter. In any case, it is always easy to deride or discredit the 'English-speaking intelligentsia'. Given the political polarisation, let me be more specific: India needs bipartisanship when it comes to national security, not a lame-duck parliament with a co-opted opposition.

And, yes, some truth-telling in peacetime after the war and the propaganda battle is won? Admitting verifiable losses in a conflict is a sign not of weakness but of responsible leadership.

*(Views are personal)*
*(Tweets @MakrandParanspe)*

## REDISCOVERING VALMIKI RAMAYANA

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

ALTHOUGH we acknowledge the impermanence of life at an intellectual level, a death, be it sudden or slow, is startling at an emotional level. For a while, we are shaken by *shamshangyan*, the realisation of death's physical finality. Then, the rhythm of daily life reclaims us. As to which, an extraordinary death has stayed with us from the time Valmiki first told us of it in his *Ramayana*: the death of Jatayu. But first, a few points about the epics that may be of interest.

One, if you'd like to read a really close translation of Valmiki's *Ramayana* in English, please see the historical one by Kamala Subramaniam. Read it slowly, one or two pages a day. Savour the flavour, read between the lines and make your discoveries. One minor discovery was that the best-selling book title *Scion of Ikshvaku* comes from her long-ago English rendition of Valmiki. Her translations of the *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata* and *Srimad Bhagavatam* may feel like they weigh half a ton each, but I like to have them nearby because you never know when you're going to need to read a few pages, like a spa treatment for the mind.

Kamala Subramaniam's English translation of Valmiki's Ramayana came out in 1981, commissioned by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. It is an abridged edition of the 24,000 verses that constitute the original, but it is a hefty 695 pages nonetheless. We need commitment to read it in today's world, especially the longer descriptions and dialogues. But reading it can be a rewarding journey into the natural beauty of old India and the emotional landscape of the heart, including its dark corners.

Subramaniam chose to translate the Valmiki Ramayana last after completing Vyasa's *Mahabharata* and *Srimad Bhagavatam*, for the *Ramayana* is uniquely challenging to tackle at a literary level. It is replete with poetry and emotional depth beyond even the magnificent *Mahabharata*.To get an idea of how monumental the task was, we need only think of the American Ramayana scholar Professor Robert Goldman. He and his team took 24 years to translate the 24,000 verses of Valmiki's *Ramayana*. It was a labour of love, like Subramaniam's, except that while Professor Goldman did a line-by-line translation of the verses, Subramaniam abridged it in prose for modern Indians without departing from Valmiki.

Subramaniam says in her preface, "Pain is the monochord heard throughout... the *Ramayana* is a threnody or lament filled to the brim with noble thoughts, noble sentiments and noble characters, not one of whom is spared the experience of pain."

Beauty is the other bandwidth that we experience in Subramaniam's translation. We see the enchanting India that Valmiki saw right from the opening scenes, with the limpid waters of the river Tamasa by which he lived. As we read on, we find exuberant descriptions of scented flowers, profusely blooming trees, clear lakes, great rivers like the Sarayu, Ganga, and Godavari, forests, and mountains, as well as humming bees and singing birds.

PEXELS

Kamala Subramaniam's English translation of Valmiki's Ramayana masterfully condenses the vast 24,000-verse epic into accessible prose without sacrificing its poetic depth or spirit. It is a companion to be kept close, like a spa treatment for the mind, ideal for moments of quiet reflection in today's hectic world

An original line from Valmiki goes, "*Chiribilvamadhuka cha vanjulavakulatathachampakatilaka cha evanagavriksha cha pushpita*," meaning "How charming they look blooming, the bilva and madhuka, and the vanjula (ashoka), vakula, champaka, tilaka and naga."

The glowing impression of India's pristine beauty that we get from this ancient book cannot but make us wistful. One of the effects this has had on me is that whenever I enter a forest, I always think of the 'Three', of Sita's delicate feet bruised by thorns but her immense happiness nevertheless in her beautiful surroundings. She even tells Rama, "Let us stay on in the forest; let us not go back to Ayodhya."

Incidentally, I was surprised to discover that people in the north have been led to believe that keeping a copy of the *Mahabharata* at home will cause family quarrels. As far as I know, nobody thinks so in the Deccan–not in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra, Telangana, Odisha, Gujarat, Goa and Maharashtra. On the contrary, besides keeping the *Bharatam* at home, a wood-inlay panel of the *Parthasarathiyam* or Krishna and Arjuna in the chariot is standard wall decoration in several Deccani homes. They see it as a representation, not of war but of the holy word. So, we may all keep the *Mahabharata* at home quite safely and peacefully.

Indeed, the epics teach us to look closely at the dynamics of ego, power, and prestige to withstand life's curveballs better. They remind us that it's all small stuff compared to God-awareness.

Jatayu's death makes this point with poignant irony in the *Ramayana*. What was Jatayu but a bird of prey? Yet, by virtue of his nobility, he dies with his head on Rama's lap, looking into Rama's face and murmuring Rama's name. Rama cremates Jatayu with the *Brahma Meda Samskaram*, a special rite meant to honour a true scholar's life of austerity, virtue, and dedicated study for the well-being of society. Whereas King Dasaratha, who performed elaborate rituals for an entire year to obtain sons, died pining, heartbroken for Rama.

Rama vows in Verse 330, Sarga (Chapter) 18 of the *Yuddha Kandam* of Valmiki's *Ramayana*: "*Sakradevamprappanaya 'tavasmiiti ca yachate/ abhayamsarvabhutebhyodadamietadvrtam mama*", or "Those who seek refuge in me just once, saying 'I am yours', I assure him of safety against every kind of being; this is my vow." So, it is that even today, Rama's name is considered the *Taraka Mantram*, or 'Mantra of the Great Crossing", a source of eternal comfort when we die.

*(Views are personal)*
*(shebaba09@gmail.com)*

## MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

### Institutional faith

Ref: *Rahul says evasive reply as EC refutes Maha poll 'rigging'* (June 7). Rahul Gandhi's allegations against Election Commission (EC) after the Congress defeat in Maharashtra assembly elections is a disgusting stretch. EC must retort to the allegations with facts and not let the institution lose its respect and credibility.
**P Mangalachandran, Kannur**

### Credit push

Ref: *RBI's bold rate cuts should spur private spending, investment* (June 7). The RBI's repo rate cuts in close intervals and a 1% cut in CRR to give stimulus to investment and spending is a bold step.Inflation must be curbed while the private sector is promoted.
**Jiji Panicker K, Alappuzha**

### Power akin

Ref: *Dynastic feuds may reshape politics* (June 8). Political family feuds are inevitable in the race for power and dominance. Party feuds remain concealed in power, but surface when not in power. The family patriarchs' inability to satisfy aspirations bitter the disputes. Ultimately, people's support decides the fortunes.
**Rajarao Kumar, Bengaluru**

### Active synergy

Ref: *Partners need to understand India's no-tolerance policy* (June 8). India's firm stand on cross-border terrorism is timely and justified. Global partners must move beyond statements and act decisively. True cooperation requires respect for India's sovereignty and commitment to dismantle terror networks, not shelter or justify them.
**Vijay Kumar H K, Raichur**

### Unfinished business

Ref: *Forest dept to ask banks not to sanction loans for encroached lands* (June 8). The Karnataka Government's initiatives against forest land encroachment are welcome. But its advisory to the banks not to sanction loans for such lands appears bizarre. Are loans approved without checking legal ownership and encumbrances?
**Rajarao Kumar, e-mail**

### Mission green

Ref: Mission Decarbonisation: State to roll out new Agroforestry Policy (June 8). The policy is a welcoming step towards reducing carbon emissions, conserving biodiversity, and mitigating climate change. Furthermore, wetlands need restoration, dense green belts need to be created along the coastline, and clean energy projects are required.
**Nabnit Panigrahi, Rayagada**

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**POSTS OF THE DAY**

**Nirmala Sitharaman** @nsitharaman
Over 55.7% Jan Dhan accounts are held by women, showcasing true financial empowerment at grassroots. Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana has secured the dreams of over 4.2 cr girls

**Priyanka Gandhi Vadra** @priyankagandhi
Why has the Prime Minister left Manipur to its fate? Till date he has neither visited Manipur, nor met any representative of the state, nor appealed for peace...

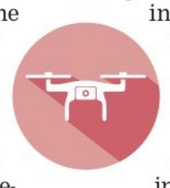
**Manoj Kumar Jha** @manojkjhadu
Donald Trump, in past few weeks, has been making absurd statements on sensitive issues like India-Pakistan ceasefire... addicted to present himself as a dealmaker

# Renewed infiltration efforts by ISI in J&K using drones: Intel

**MUKESH RANJAN** @ New Delhi

PAKISTAN intelligence agency ISI has stepped up efforts to push terrorists into India across the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu & Kashmir by using drone technology, being deployed for precise surveillance and situational assessment before infiltration by rogue elements, the Intelligence Bureau (IB) has alerted the government in its report.

According to sources, the IB has recently submitted its report relating to terrorist movements along the LoC to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).



In the report, the IB has flagged the ISI's nefarious design to track the movement and deployment of Indian security forces, identify gaps in border patrol routes and analyse terrain conditions in real-time to assist terrorists in their bid to enter India across the LoC, sources said.

By using drone technology, the ISI aims to minimise the risk of detection or getting neutralised during the course of cross-border penetration, the agency highlighted.

A source quoting the IB report said, "On May 14, a credible input revealed that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) held a meeting with various Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) training camp commanders and guides in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The discussion focused on increasing the recruitment of new terrorists into the LeT fold and the importance of drone surveillance along the LoC to monitor the situation prior to infiltration attempts."

According to the report, credible inputs were also received about discussions during the meeting pertaining to reLoCating training camps and launching pads in PoK and also constructing underground bunkers for potential armed conflict with India.

The IB report also indicated that the ISI had instructed terror outfits to arm and train civilian residents in border areas to prepare them to deal with Indian drone attacks and proposed replacing active guides with residents from PoK/Pakistan to better manage infiltration routes, sources said, adding, during the meeting of the ISI with terror outfits, a detailed plan was also discussed to attack Indian security forces in the coming days while upgrading and activating the overground worker network in J&K.

# India ignores Pak calls on IWT, bolsters canal infra

## Launches study for Chenab-Ravi-Beas-Sutlej link to divert water

**JITENDRA CHOUBEY** @ New Delhi

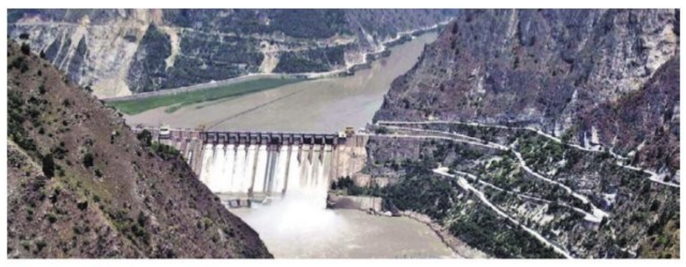
DESPITE Pakistan's appeals for rethink on the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) 1960, India has chosen to remain silent. Instead, India is proactively bolstering its water storage and canal infrastructure, strategically positioning itself to divert the flow of water from Pakistan's rivers ahead of any negotiations.

Officials of the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of External Affairs have acknowledged that India has received four letters from Pakistan since the IWT was put on hold.

The letters, sent by Pakistan's water resources secretary Syed Ali Murtaza, articulate the neighbouring country's desire for revival of the treaty and restoration of the cooperative framework that governs the flow of water resources.

India put the IWT, brokered by the World Bank, on hold a day after 26 people, including one from Nepal, were killed in the April 22 Pahalgam attack.

Pakistan is currently facing a severe water crisis affecting its Kharif crops amid extreme summer heat and India's regulation of Indus water. Reports indicate that Pakistan also approached the World Bank for intervention, but the organisation declined to intervene.



### 'Indus Waters Treaty will remain suspended'

Invoking its national security powers, India has stated that the treaty will stay suspended until Islamabad "credibly and permanently" stops supporting cross-border terrorism. This was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security, the highest body on strategic matters.

Instead of responding to the treaty, the Indian government has chosen to enhance its water infrastructure to facilitate water diversion from the Indus basin before engaging in any future negotiations regarding revival of the treaty.

After putting a set of water storage and run-of-river projects on fast track to hold more water, India has launched a pre-feasibility study for the Chenab-Ravi-Beas-Sutlej link canal project. The link canal will feed water to canals in Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan, and further link to the proposed Sharda canal.

"India plans to divert over 15-20 million acre-feet of water to meet its agricultural and industrial needs," said a senior Jal Shakti ministry officer.

When asked why India cannot divert water from the Indus river, he cited reasons such as its geographical constraints.

"Diverting water from the Indus river requires complex and heavy tunnelling across Zaskar and Pir Panjal ranges, which is not economically feasible. But if required, we will do it also as we can implement advanced engineering," the officer said.

Invoking its national security powers, India has stated that the treaty will stay suspended until Islamabad "credibly and permanently" stops supporting cross-border terrorism. This was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security. This is the first time New Delhi has put the IWT in abeyance.

# Women-led development marks 11 years of NDA govt, says Modi

**RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR** @ New Delhi

ON the eve of marking 11 years of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the NDA government has set a new, redefined benchmark in development, with women at the forefront in the country.

"Over the past 11 years, the NDA government has redefined women-led development," the PM said in a post reflecting the government's initiatives since 2014, aimed at empowering women by accelerating women-led development. "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao ignited a national movement to protect the girl child," he added.

Various initiatives, from ensuring dignity through Swachh Bharat to financial inclusion via Jan Dhan accounts, have focused on empowering our Nari-Shakti. Ujjwala Yojna brought smoke-free kitchens to several homes, he said.

The PM also pointed that Mudra loans had enabled lakhs of women entrepreneurs to pursue their dreams on their own terms. "Houses under women's names in the PM Awas Yojna have made a remarkable

impact. In all sectors, including science, education, sports, Start-Ups, and the armed forces, women are excelling and inspiring many," the PM said, tagging the past 11 years as 'Years of Sashakt Nari' (empowered women).

In a thread shared via the government-run MyGovIndia platform, the PM highlighted his government's achievements in women's empowerment and women-led development.

The platform further revealed that the maternal mortality ratio had declined to 93 per lakh live births in 2019-21 from 167 in 2011-13, and the number of households with tap water connections surged to 15.64 crore in May 2025, up from 3.23 crore in August 2019.

### 'Not participants, leaders'

On the eve of 11-year-mark of the Modi government, the Centre asserted, "Today, women are not just participants but leaders, entrepreneurs, and change-makers driving India's growth story." Meanwhile, the BJP claimed over 10.5 crore women have been mobilised in 90.7 lakh self-help groups in 11 years – women-run enterprises, and families have grown significantly.

It stated, "Nari-Shakti is not a moment – it's the movement powering New India. Before 2014, the voices of many women were unheard, their potential untapped. Prime Minister Modi's leadership changed the narrative, igniting a movement of courage and opportunity. Today, Nari-Shakti leads with pride – breaking barriers, building futures, and inspiring generations with their unstoppable spirit."

Besides what PM Modi shared in public domain a day before his government completes 11 years, a post by the Centre hailed empowered women as the architects of the nation's destiny.

# Army chief visits Garhwal to take stock of operational preparedness along LAC

**MAYANK SINGH** @ New Delhi

CHIEF of the Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi on Sunday visited forward posts along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand to review operational and administrative readiness of forces deployed.

Army in its statement said, "During his visit, the COAS interacted with troops guarding the frontiers and commended them for their unwavering dedication, resilience, and professionalism. He emphasised the importance of maintaining high standards of operational preparedness and vigilance."

Later in the day, the COAS inaugurated Ibex Tarana 88.4 FM, the first-of-its-kind Community Radio Station based in Jyotirmath (Joshimath), Uttarakhand. In his inaugural podcast, the COAS remarked, "Ibex Tarana is not just a radio station-it is a powerful medium to amplify the voice of youth. It will bring the community together, promote local talent, and reconnect people with their cultural roots."

### India, Mongolia hold joint military exercises

Under an initiative to strengthen India-Mongolia bilateral ties, the joint military exercise 'Nomadic Elephant 2025' between the two countries is currently underway at the Special Forces Training Centre in Ulaanbaatar. The Army said, this 17th edition of the exercise focuses on non-conventional operations in semi-urban and mountain environments and aims to enhance operational capabilities of both forces.

Uttarakhand, along with Himachal Pradesh form the Middle Sector of the LAC. Uttarakhand is also defined into Kumaon and Garhwal regions. There are around 22 passes along the 545-km stretch of the Middle Sector.

The 3,488-km-long LAC is undemarcated borders between India and China where both countries exercise actual control on ground and have differing perceptions. It is divided into the Western (Eastern Ladakh), Central (Himachal, Uttarakhand) and Eastern (Sikkim, Arunachal) sectors.

**INSIDER TRACK**

## Spl session pitch unites INDIA bloc

This week, the Modi government announced the monsoon session of Parliament, scheduled from July 21 to August 12, rejecting the demand by more than 17 Opposition parties for a special Parliament session to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor. The INDIA bloc parties had written to the Prime Minister for the special session. Initially, the perception was only Congress MPs had sent the letter. However, the party decided to rope in INDIA bloc partners at the insistence of the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi. The TMC, which always toes a different line from that of its constituents in the INDIA bloc, came on board after Gandhi personally reached out to TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee. Gandhi also made an extra effort to reach out to SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, DMK's TR Balu, and Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Aditya Thackeray. Sources said the party went into overdrive, with general secretary KC Venugopal and deputy leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi following up with the main opposition parties. Tamil Nadu MP Manickam Tagore coordinated with the DMK and others in the state, Kerala MP Suresh Kodikunnil contacted the Left and other parties. Bihar MP Mohammad Jawed held talks with the AAP, but to no effect. NCP(SP) leader Supriya Sule maintains she could not sign the letter as she was on the multi-party delegation outreach; sources in the Congress debunk her claims. "Sharad Pawar could have signed it," says a leader who was part of the talks.

## Cong gag order for outreach MPs

The Congress MPs who were part of the multi-party delegations for diplomatic outreach on 'Operation Sindoor' have stirred controversy back home with their statements, which are inconsistent with the party's view. As soon as the MPs touched down in the national capital, they received a phone call from the party headquarters warning them to refrain from making public statements breaching the 'Lakshman Rekha'. No more face-palm moments, they were told. They included Punjab MP Amar Singh, former Union ministers Salman Khurshid, Anand Sharma, Shashi Tharoor and Manish Tewari. While Khurshid's backing of Article 370 and his cryptic tweet on 'patriotism' caused some heartburn in the party, he attempted to downplay the remarks upon his return and clarified that his comments were not directed at party members. One of the MPs also wrote a letter to party general secretary KC Venugopal requesting him to arrange a press conference for the Congress MPs, who were part of the delegations, to provide more clarity to the public and the media. Tharoor said he is not anticipating any issues with the party, if there are it will be resolved through internal discussions.

## MHA junks pleas to defer J&K posting

Since Jammu & Kashmir came under the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram-Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre, IAS officers from the pool get regular postings there. However, not everyone is eager to pack their bags. Recently, two 2021-batch officers — Ananth Dwivedi and Mahima Madan – transferred from the Delhi segment to J&K, sought to defer their postings due to personal hardships. Dwivedi cited his spouse's medical condition, while Madan requested a year's delay. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), however, wasn't moved. It rejected their pleas and instructed both to report for duty in J&K without delay. If personal issues persist, they could apply for leave through proper channels – but only after joining – the officers were told.

## Top cop caught in Centre-state tiff

Jharkhand DGP Anurag Gupta finds himself in a bureaucratic limbo — retired according to the Centre, but still serving in the eyes of the state. In a peculiar tug-of-war between the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Hemant Soren-led state government, Gupta's career has been thrown into confusion at its very end. The MHA, which controls IPS cadre postings, had firmly rejected the state's proposal to extend Gupta's tenure beyond his superannuation date of April 30, 2025, sending three reminders to that effect. Ignoring this, the state continued with him in office. Now, the fallout has begun. Gupta was issued a zero-salary slip for May by the Principal Accountant General's office, which considers him officially retired. His salary hasn't been released, and the state government appears cornered, struggling to justify its move. Sources in the MHA say the bigger challenge now is ensuring the "legal tenability" of all decisions Gupta may have taken post-retirement. With the Centre playing checkmate, all eyes are on the Soren government to see how it navigates this administrative bind — and whether Gupta, officially retired but still functionally active, retains any lawful authority.

# HOW LEGAL REFORMS UNDER MODI REDEFINED WOMEN SAFETY

OPINION

**SAVITRI THAKUR**
Union Minister of State for Women & Child Development

IN 2012, the brutal Nirbhaya incident shocked the conscience of the nation. It also exposed the deep fissures in India's legal and administrative framework for women's safety. Inadequate policing, slow judicial response, outdated laws, and near-total absence of survivor support systems painted a bleak picture.

By 2014, India stood at a crossroads. Public outrage was loud, but the legal machinery remained sluggish. Fast-track courts were a concept, not a reality. There were no one-stop solutions and centres, no national women's helplines, no forensic support to fast-track investigation, and no dedicated funds to support such measures. Women's issues were viewed as social concerns and national priorities.

### Modi Era: From Protection to Structural Empowerment

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government of India has undertaken a paradigm shift—from a fragmented response to a mission-mode approach anchored in legal reform, institutional delivery, and dignity for every woman over the last 11 years of governance.

### Legal Safety as National Commitment

The government initiated the establishment of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) nationwide, and today, 745 such courts are operational, including 404 that exclusively deal with cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. In contrast to 2014, when One Stop Centres were non-existent, more than 820 districts now have fully functional OSCs providing legal assistance, police intervention, shelter, and counselling under one roof to any distressed women affected by violence. The National Women's Helpline (181), launched as part of this ecosystem, has provided emergency support to more than 8.6 million women on a 24/7 basis. Furthermore, over 14,600 police stations across the country now house Women Help Desks, most of which are staffed by female officers—transforming an environment previously marked by apathy or even hostility into one of greater sensitivity and support. Through the Nirbhaya Fund, the government has financed over 50 major projects focused on women's safety and security as compared to the weak emergency response system before 2014.

### Progressive Legal Amendments

While the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 initiated some much-needed reforms, it was the comprehensive codification under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and associated laws in 2023 that marked India's actual break from colonial-era criminal jurisprudence.

These new laws consolidate all offences against women into a single dedicated chapter and mandate that victim statements be video-recorded, preferably by a woman magistrate, to ensure a sensitive process. Offences like digital stalking, voyeurism, and deception through false promises of marriage have been criminalised for the first time. The legal system now imposes stringent penalties for acid attacks, trafficking, gang rape, and custodial sexual violence. Additionally, any refusal to register an FIR or provide emergency medical care to a rape survivor is treated as a criminal offence. Women are now legally permitted to work in any sector and at any hour, discarding archaic "protectionist" restrictions and affirming their autonomy. Critical procedural reforms have also been introduced, including the establishment of witness protection mechanisms and acceptance of digital evidence—redefining the survivor's experience of justice in cases of sexual violence.

**Beyond the realm of legal protection, the government's approach has been to weave legal reforms with broader initiatives for social, financial, and digital empowerment. Maternity leave has been extended from 12 to 26 weeks, and establishments with more than 50 employees are now required to provide creche facilities. Women are now actively participating in combat roles in the armed forces...**

These are not mere amendments - they represent a reorientation of the justice system towards the survivor.

### Empowerment Beyond the Law

Beyond the realm of legal protection, the government's approach has been to weave legal reforms with broader initiatives for social, financial, and digital empowerment. Maternity leave has been extended from 12 to 26 weeks, and establishments with more than 50 employees are now required to provide creche facilities. Women are now actively participating in combat roles in the armed forces, gaining admission to Sainik Schools, entering the prestigious National Defence Academy (NDA), and receiving permanent commissions—milestones that were once inaccessible to them. Discriminatory practices like Triple Talaq have been legally abolished, and women are now permitted to undertake the Haj pilgrimage without the accompaniment of a male guardian. Justice delivery has also been decentralised and digitised through community-based Nari Adalats and platforms such as SHe-Box 2.0, bringing timely redressal mechanisms directly to the grassroots level.

### Safer, Stronger Bharat Begins with Legal Dignity

Before 2014, women's safety was too often treated as a reactive subject driven by headlines, not policy. Today, it is embedded in the architecture of governance, backed by funds, forensic tools, legal reforms, and frontline functionaries.

As we enter the Amrit Kaal, the vision is clear: A New India where no woman walks alone and where her safety is not a privilege but a constitutional guarantee backed by state capacity.

The journey is not over, but we have come a long way. With continued political will, social partnership, and legal commitment, Bharat can truly become the safest place for a woman to live, work, and lead.

**GANG BUST**

A gang of women thieves who targeted female devotees at temples in Mathura was busted in a police crackdown after a judge's mangalsutra was snatched, officials said on Sunday. Ten such women thieves were arrested.

2 DROWN IN BACKWATERS OF DAM IN PUNE DISTRICT

| INDIA | Max | Min | | Max | Min |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | 37 | 27 | Mumbai | 31 | 28 |
| Bhopal | 38 | 28 | Panaji | 32 | 27 |
| Jaipur | 41 | 30 | Patna | 38 | 32 |
| Amritsar | 44 | 29 | Lucknow | 40 | 32 |
| Chennai | 36 | 28 | Port Blair | 29 | 26 |
| Kolkata | 34 | 28 | Imphal | 30 | 23 |
| Srinagar | 28 | 15 | Chandigarh | 41 | 29 |

# Chirag announces Bihar poll fight, says will let people decide on seat

'Plan to contest from unreserved constituency doesn't imply chief ministerial ambition'

**RAMASHANKAR** @ Patna

LOK Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief and union minister Chirag Paswan on Sunday announced that he will contest the Bihar assembly elections. He, however, did not specify the constituency from which he would be fighting, leaving it to the people.

While addressing the 'Nav Sankalp Sabha' organised by his party in Ara in the Bhojpur district, Chirag said, "Yes... I will contest the election from Bihar for Bihar and the people of Bihar. I will run in all 243 seats. The people will decide from which seat I should contest."

He, however, clarified that his plans to contest from an unreserved constituency should not be construed as ambitions for the chief ministership. "Let me make one thing very clear. My contest will only ensure a better strike rate for my party, which would help NDA," he asserted.

Reiterating his resolve to focus more on Bihar politics, Chirag said that his alliance was only with the people of Bihar. "I will contest on all 243 seats to make NDA stronger. I will live and die for the people of Bihar, for the pride of the state," he added.

Striking an emotional chord, the LJP(RV) chief said, "After losing my father, my people (uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras) ousted me from my house. Now, the people are my family." He, however, remarked that he was not frightened by such an odd situation and would fight even in the future if need be.

Sounding a poll bugle from Ara in the Shahabad region, considered a challenging electoral terrain for the NDA, the 42-year-old leader, son of the late former Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, said that he would realise his father's dreams and work for "Bihar First, Bihari First".

He said that 'jungle raj' not only prevailed during the RJD's 15-year rule, but it was also very much present during the 10-year rule of the Congress (from 1980-90). RJD chief Lalu took over the reins of the state in 1990. During the Congress-RJD regime, several massacres took place in the state.

Chirag said that Bihar was making tremendous progress under the double-engine government and also heaped praise on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for taking various initiatives for the state's growth. "By 2047, when the country will be a developed nation—every village, every block, every panchayat and every district in Bihar too would have been developed," he said, amid wide applause from the crowd, mostly youths.

The Hajipur MP stated that the NDA would perform better in the Shahabad region in the 2025 assembly elections. Shahabad comprises four districts: Bhojpur, Buxar, Kaimur, and Rohtas. In the 2020 assembly polls and the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the NDA's performance was significantly lower compared to the Opposition Grand Alliance in the Shahabad region.

LJP (RV) MP from Jamui Arun Bharti, who is also the brother-in-law of Chirag Paswan, had recently said that Chirag may contest from a general seat instead of a seat reserved for scheduled caste. Posters erected at Ara ahead of 'Nav Sankalp Sabha' indicated that Chirag may contest from an assembly constituency in Shahabad region.

PM Modi also visited Bikramganj in Rohtas district on May 30 to address a rally aimed at consolidating NDA votes in the wake of the elections. The PM also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for several development projects on the occasion.

**'State progressing under double engine government'**

Chirag said Bihar was making tremendous progress under the double engine govt and heaped praise on PM Narendra Modi and CM Nitish Kumar for various initiatives for the state's growth. "By 2047 when country will be a developed nation—every village, every block, every panchayat and every district in Bihar too will be developed," he said.

# Rajasthan Gurjars hold mahapanchayat to renew pitch for quota demand

**RAJESH ASNANI** @ Jaipur

TO press for their quota demand, the Gurjars in Rajasthan held a major show of strength through a mahapanchayat in Bharatpur district on Sunday. The Gurjar group, led by Vijay Bainsla, son of veteran Gurjar leader Col. KS Bainsla, has held two major agitations on behalf of the Gurjar community in the past to push for the full implementation of reservation promises made in previous agreements.

While the mahapanchayat was held throughout the day, and the Gurjars were initially reluctant to engage in dialogue, a compromise was reached in which the government agreed to send a draft to the central government to fulfil their quota demands. After this, the protesters agreed to call off the agitation. However, some Gurjar youngsters opposed the decision and blocked the Mumbai-Delhi railway track.

Earlier, during the mahapanchayat held on the side of the Hindaun-Bayana State Highway, various demands, including reservation for Gurjars, were discussed under the leadership of Vijay Bainsla, president of Aarakshan Sangharsh Samiti.

Vijay Bainsla is the son of the veteran Gurjar leader, Col. KS Bainsla, who led community agitations until his death four years ago. The Gurjars had given the government an ultimatum until 1 pm on Sunday, and large crowds of the community gathered in the Pilupura-Karwadi area of Bayana. Bainsla said, "We have got incomplete rights, and we have to get them completely. For this reason, this mahapanchayat of the Gurjar community has been called Pilupura."

He added, "Now we will not go to the government for talks. The government should send a letter to a competent-level IAS officer. If the letter is sent, it will be read out to the society during the mahapanchayat. Whatever the society says on the spot will be decided."

## RANCHI DIARY

MUKESH RANJAN
Our correspondent in Jharkhand
mukesh.r@newindianexpress.com

### Pause on Deoghar-Delhi night flight service

If you are looking to travel from Deoghar to the national capital, plan carefully. Come June 15, and the IndiGo Airlines' night flight service from Deoghar to Delhi, which was launched in mid-April, will be suspended for three months. The airline has taken the decision in view of the ongoing repair work in Terminal 2 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport. The airline has halted all bookings for night flights — which depart from Deoghar at 7.40 pm and touch down in the Capital at 9.30 pm — after June 14. However, the regular daytime flight service will remain unaffected so that flyers are not inconvenienced.

### Over 5,800 unrecognised schools in Jharkhand

Jharkhand has the highest number of unrecognised schools (5,879) — private, unaided institutions operating without formal government recognition and regulatory frameworks — in the country, with an enrolment of 837,897 students and 46,421 teachers. The Ministry of Education (MoE) flagged the issue during a recent meeting of the Project Approval Board. The MoE noted that such unrecognised schools are operating in violation of Section 19 of the Right to Education Act, 2009, which stipulates that the schools established before the law came into effect had to meet the prescribed norms within three years.

### 'I was a juvenile': Youth held for ISIS links in 2023

A student of Aligarh Muslim University, Faizan Ansari, who was arrested from Lohardaga in July 2023 for alleged links to the terrorist organisation ISIS, has now pulled out the juvenile card! Claiming that he was a minor at the time of his arrest, Ansari has asserted that he must not be tried as an adult. He has filed a petition in Ranchi's NIA court under the Juvenile Act in this regard, prompting a probe to ascertain the veracity of his claim. If it is found that the accused was indeed underage at the time, the ongoing trial will be postponed and the case will be transferred to the Juvenile Court, delivering a huge relief to him.

# 16 held in Assam for illegal cattle slaughter: Sarma

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @ Guwahati

ASSAM Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said 16 people were arrested for "illegally" slaughtering cattle during Eid a day ago.

"While our Constitution guarantees the right to religious freedom, it equally upholds the rule of law and public order," Sarma wrote on X (formerly Twitter), adding, "This Eid-ul-Zuha, disturbing incidents of illegal cattle slaughter and recovery of cattle parts were reported from multiple locations across Assam."

The CM stated that five illegal slaughter sites had been found in two districts of the Barak Valley — Gumrah, Silchar & Lakhipur in Cachar and Badarpur & Banga in Karimganj. Of the 16 people held, nine hailed from Cachar and the seven others from Sribhumi.

"Five cases of cattle parts found — including near Cotton University (Kamrup M), Dhubri, Hojai and Sribhumi (Bagargool)," Sarma added.

"We are committed to preserving communal harmony, but not at the cost of lawlessness or cruelty. Please be clear that strict action will be taken against all violators — irrespective of faith or background," the CM warned.

# Developed India, good governance at centre of C'garh 'Chintan Shivir'

**EJAZ KAISER** @ Raipur

THE Chhattisgarh cabinet on Sunday embarked on the second edition of 'Chintan Shivir', which aimed at formulating strategies to achieve the vision of a developed India by 2047 and incorporate latest techniques of management in the state's functioning, officials said.

Another focus area is the transformation in regions like Bastar, where progress is seen in tourism, self-employment opportunities, and infrastructure development. "Each minister presented innovations undertaken in their departments, experiences gathered through public service, and about the roadmap ahead," a government spokesperson said.

One of the key highlights of the Shivir, held at IIM-Raipur, is a dedicated session on the theme 'From good governance to elections,' which focused on policy transparency, accountability, and decisions made in public interest. Special sessions focusing on the core themes of seva (service), sankalp (resolve) and seekh (learning) are also part of the program, an official said.

"Renowned experts from across the country are delivering lectures on key topics such as good governance, transparency and nation-building. The Shivir is structured like a learning workshop where each minister is actively engaged in upgrading their vision and capacity," the official said. CM Vishnu Deo Sai shared insights and guidance received during his recent meetings with PM Narendra Modi and HM Amit Shah in Delhi.

The Congress called the 'Chintan Shivir' a 'paryatan (tourism) shivir'. "Such Shivir gives the BJP government an occasion to review and do some soul-searching on their failures to meet the expectations of people," state Congress president Deepak Baij said.

### Woman BJP leader thrashes tribal farmer

Raipur: A video has gone viral from Chhattisgarh's Korba district showing Jyoti Mahant, a woman leader of the ruling party, thrashing a tribal farmer outside the Bakimongara police station on Sunday. Mahant was triggered when she overheard the farmer abuse someone on the phone as she passed him by in her car. Since she felt that he was abusing her, she got off and attacked him.

# How Aadhaar fudging aided MP cop recruitment scam

**ANURAAG SINGH** @ Bhopal

PALIGANJ town – 50 km from the Bihar capital – is in news nearly a thousand km away in Madhya Pradesh, thanks to one of its government school teachers, who has emerged as the key solver of an inter-state Aadhaar ID manipulation-enabled examination racket, which helped candidates from the Gwalior-Chambal region crack the 2023 MP Police Constable Recruitment Exam.

Ranjan Kumar Gupta, a school teacher from Paliganj appeared in place of ten candidates, including one of the merit holders of the exam who secured 87 out of 100 marks.

Besides Gupta, who is now in police custody in MP's Sheopur district, at least five more solvers from the same eastern state also appeared through the same modus operandi for dozens of other candidates in MP, in return for ₹1 lakh to ₹4 lakh subject to passing of the candidate.

Another solver from Bihar's Gaya district, Amrendra Singh 'Bahubali' appeared for eight candidates, for ₹1 lakh each. He is now in police custody in Alirajpur district, following the arrest of Ramrup Gurjar, the candidate from MP's Gwalior-Chambal region who managed to clear the written test by making Amrendra appear in his place and subsequently cracked the 2024 physical proficiency test on his own, to finally be selected for the constable's job.

"The solvers from Bihar travelled between Patna and MP by air on tickets booked by the examination's main racket's mastermind Amitabh Rawat and aides in Gwalior-Chambal region. They were comforted in big hotels and travelled to examination centres across MP in snazzy cars. The racket mastermind and aides also took special care of the fun and frolic demanded by the solvers from Bihar during their stay in MP ," a police officer forming a key part of the ongoing probe told this newspaper.

Eyeing to earn big (around ₹40 lakh after appearing for ten candidates) Ranjan now feels cheated by the mastermind of the racket – Morena district-based Amitabh Rawat – who is also a school teacher, and a village sarpanch's husband.

Carrying a ₹10,000 reward on his arrest, Rawat, who is now on the run, made Ranjan appear for ten candidates, but paid him just ₹4 lakh.

"Ranjan, however, is confident that he wouldn't have failed in getting less than 6-7 candidates pass the 2023 written test to qualify for the 2024 physical proficiency test. The candidates for whom he appeared, included at least three close relatives of the racket's mastermind Amitabh Rawat. Just like us, Ranjan too is keenly awaiting Rawat's arrest, but for different reasons," the police officer confided.

While Rawat , who is a Meena caste strongman in Morena, ran the biggest racket, smaller rackets run by some other caste strongmen (including Thakurs and Gurjars) were also active in other districts of the same northern MP region.

# U'khand 'Sri Lanka tapu' set for monsoon siege

**NARENDRA SETHI** @ Dehradun

AS monsoon rains begin to envelop Uttarakhand, a stark annual reality unfolds for 115 families residing on 'Sri Lanka Tapu', a distinctive village nestled in Nainital district's Bindukhatta area. Despite ambitious state-wide pushes for enhanced connectivity and modern infrastructure development, this community annually transforms into an isolated island, completely cut off from the mainland for three gruelling months once the heavy rains begin.

In preparation for this predictable isolation, residents are already in full swing, meticulously stockpiling essential food and supplies. "We have to ensure that we have enough to last us through the entire monsoon," said Raghuveer Singh of Sri Lanka Tapu.

Rising waters during the monsoon make reaching the mainland extremely difficult and dangerous, compelling families to prepare in advance to avert hardships during their prolonged period of disconnection. According to administrative sources, the number of members in 115 families in Sri Lanka Tapu is around 200.

Acknowledging the unique and persistent challenges, Haldwani sub-divisional Magistrate (SDM) Rekha Kohli recently visited the village, accompanied by departmental officials. Acting on her directives, the food supply inspector distributed rations sufficient to last until August, while the health department provided a comprehensive three-month supply of life-saving medicines.

"We have ensured residents of 'Sri Lanka Island' receive crucial supplies to sustain them through the monsoon, including rations until August and a three-month supply of life-saving medicines to address their immediate needs," said SDM Kohli.

Further bolstering emergency preparedness, a vital helipad has been constructed in Sri Lanka Tapu. Officials confirm this facility will serve as a critical lifeline, facilitating timely evacuation and treatment in medical emergencies and ensuring residents' safety during their isolation. Known to its residents as Kalapani, the village earned its 'Sri Lanka' moniker from journalists who, during the devastating 1984 floods, likened its distinctive geographical appearance to the island nation when flying overhead. Spanning 45 hectares, the village located near Haldwani is uniquely surrounded by water on three sides and dense forest on the fourth, solidifying its status as a virtual island during the monsoon season.

**Rising waters make reaching the mainland hard**

Rising waters during the monsoon make reaching the mainland extremely difficult and dangerous, compelling families to prepare in advance to avert hardships during their prolonged period of disconnection. According to administrative sources, the number of members in 115 families in Sri Lanka Tapu is around 200.

# J'khand plans staff reshuffle to balance student-teacher ratio in high schools

**MUKESH RANJAN** @ Ranchi

THE Jharkhand government will rationalise posting of teachers in high schools considering discrepancies in teaching staff in urban and rural areas, officials said. Schools with a higher teacher-student ratio will lose some teachers, who will be shifted to schools in rural areas having less ratio.

School education and literacy department secretary Umashankar Singh has already given instructions to the deputy commissioners of all districts in this regard. "The decision was taken in the light of the fact that in many districts there were more teachers than the required," an official said.

According to the sources in the education department, during the review meeting of the results of Jharkhand Autonomous Council (JAC) Class 10 Board exams, huge disparity was found in the ratio of teachers and students in rural and urban areas.

"There are many schools where twice or thrice number of teachers are posted for one child. To remove this irregularity, rationalisation of teachers is required," the official said. "In addition to that, enrolment in some schools having negligible number of students appearing for board exams will be improved so that the number of students is increased there," he said.

This year 777 schools have given 100 per cent result. Out of these 777 schools, 261 had given 100 per cent result in 2024. This year all the students in 51 schools have passed with first division.

Out of 51 schools, there are 21 where 100 per cent of the candidates studying in the year 2024 also passed with first division.

In 2024, 100 per cent children studying in 47 schools passed with first division, out of which 21 schools repeated their performance in the current year, while the remaining 26 schools could not maintain their performance. Twenty-three schools each in Hazaribagh and East Singhbhum are at the top, which produced 100 per cent results.

## 6.3-magnitude

quake shakes Bogota early Sunday; no casualties were reported in tremor

**GLOBAL WEATHER**

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beijing | 26 | 11 | LC | Los Angeles | 17 | 10 | SNY |
| Colombo | 32 | 25 | TDS | Melbourne | 18 | 13 | LC |
| Dhaka | 34 | 27 | LC | Moscow | 5 | 0 | LC |
| Dubai | 42 | 31 | SNY | New York | 14 | 6 | LR |
| Houston | 30 | 22 | LC | Singapore | 31 | 25 | TDS |
| Istanbul | 17 | 12 | LR | Toronto | 8 | 1 | LC |
| London | 17 | 8 | SNY | Washington | 23 | 8 | TDS |

# Moscow says Kyiv delaying swap of bodies of soldiers

6,000 fallen soldiers await return as Russia, Ukraine clash over timeline

The motorcade of refrigerators of the first convoy carrying bodies of Ukrainian soldiers for repatriation is parked at an exchange area near Novaya Guta, Belarus| AP

**MOSCOW**

RUSSIAN officials said Sunday that Moscow is still awaiting official confirmation from Ukraine that a planned exchange of 6,000 bodies of soldiers killed in action will take place, reiterating allegations that Kyiv had postponed the swap. Russian state media quoted Lt. Gen. Alexander Zorin, a representative of the Russian negotiating group, as saying that Russia delivered the first batch of 1,212 bodies of Ukrainian soldiers to the exchange site at the border and is waiting for confirmation from Ukraine, but that there were "signals" that the process of transferring the bodies would be postponed until next week.

Citing Zorin on her Telegram channel, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova asked whether it was Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's "personal decision not to take the bodies of the Ukrainians" or whether "someone from NATO prohibited it."

Ukrainian authorities said plans agreed upon during direct talks in Istanbul on Monday were proceeding accordingly, despite what Ukraine's intelligence chief, Kyrylo Budanov, called Russian attempts to "unilaterally dictate the parameters of the exchange process." "We are carefully adhering to the agreements reached in Istanbul. Who, when and how to exchange should not be someone's sole decision. Careful preparation is ongoing. Pressure and manipulation are unacceptable here," he said in a statement on Telegram on Sunday.

"The start of repatriation activities based on the results of the negotiations in Istanbul is scheduled for next week," the statement said. "Everything is moving according to plan, despite the enemy's dirty information game." Russia and Ukraine each accused the other on Saturday of endangering plans to swap 6,000 bodies of soldiers killed in action, which was agreed upon during the talks in Istanbul, which otherwise made no progress toward ending the war. Medinsky said that Kyiv called a last-minute halt to an imminent swap. In a Telegram post on Saturday, he said that refrigerated trucks carrying more than 1,200 bodies of Ukrainian troops from Russia had already reached the agreed exchange site at the border when the news came. According to Ukraine dealing with such swaps, no date had been set for repatriating bodies. *AP*

## Russia claims it's advancing into Ukraine's eastern belt

**MEZHOVA**

RUSSIA said Sunday it was advancing into Ukraine's eastern industrial Dnipropetrovsk region for the first time in its three-year invasion -- a significant territorial escalation amid stalled peace talks.

Ukraine's top political and military leaders did not immediately respond to the claim, which would be a symbolic and strategic blow to Ukraine's forces after months of battlefield setbacks.

Moscow, which has the initiative across much of the front, has repeatedly refused calls by Ukraine, Europe and US President Donald Trump for a full and unconditional ceasefire even as it holds talks with Kyiv on a possible settlement to the war. Russia's defence ministry said forces from a tank unit had "reached the western border of the Donetsk People's Republic and are continuing to develop an offensive in the Dnipropetrovsk region".

Although there was no response from leaders in Kyiv to the claims, Ukraine's southern army command said Russia "does not give up its intentions to enter the Dnipropetrovsk region, but our fighters are bravely and professionally holding their section of the frontline."

Dnipropetrovsk is not one of the five Ukrainian regions — Donetsk, Kherson, Lugansk, Zaporizhzhia and Crimea — that Moscow has publicly claimed as Russian territory. *AFP*

# Israel to block aid boat with Greta Thunberg

**TEL AVIV**

ISRAEL's government on Sunday vowed to prevent an aid boat carrying Greta Thunberg and other activists from reaching the Gaza Strip.

Defense Minister Israel Katz said that Israel wouldn't allow anyone to break its naval blockade of the Palestinian territory, which he said was aimed at preventing Hamas from importing arms. "To the antisemitic Greta and her fellow Hamas propagandists — I will say this clearly: You should turn back, because you will not make it to Gaza," he said in a statement.

Thunberg, a climate campaigner, is among 12 activists aboard the Madleen, which is operated by the Freedom Flotilla Coalition. The vessel departed Sicily last Sunday on a mission that aims to break the sea blockade of Gaza and deliver humanitarian aid, while raising awareness over the growing humanitarian crisis 20 months into the Israel-Hamas war. The activists had said they planned to reach Gaza's territorial waters as early as Sunday.

Thiago Ávila, a Brazilian activist on board the boat, posted a video on social media Sunday afternoon saying someone appeared to be jamming their tracking and communication devices about 160 nautical miles from Gaza.

Rima Hassan, a French member of the European Parliament who is of Palestinian descent, is among the others onboard. She has been barred from entering Israel because of her opposition to Israeli policies toward the Palestinians. *AP*

Climate activist Greta Thunberg stands near a Palestinian flag after boarding the Madleen boat and before setting sail for Gaza along with activists of the Freedom Flotilla Coalition, departing from the Sicilian port of Catania, Italy | AP

**5 dead in Israeli fire in aid sites; Israel calls it warnings**

DEIR AL-BALAH: Israeli fire killed at least five people and wounded others as they headed toward two aid distribution points in Gaza run by an Israeli and US-backed group, Palestinian health officials and witnesses said Sunday. Israel's military said it fired warning shots at people who approached its forces. The past two weeks have seen frequent shootings near the new hubs where thousands of Palestinians — desperate after 20 months of war — are being directed to collect food. Witnesses say nearby Israeli troops have opened fire, and more than 80 people have been killed, according to Gaza hospital officials.

**WAR WATCH**

ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 612

**TOLL SO FAR**

**53,236**

**Body of Hamas leader Sinwar found in tunnel**

Gaza: The Israeli military recovered the body of de facto Hamas leader Mohammed Sinwar in a tunnel underneath the European Hospital in southern Gaza, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) told Israeli media on Sunday. The IDF said it made the announcement after the body went through an identification process.

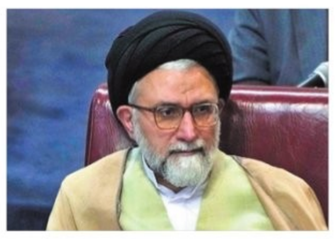
# Iran claims it took Israeli nuclear files, offers no proof

**DUBAI**

IRAN's intelligence minister claimed without offering evidence Sunday that Tehran seized an "important treasury" of information regarding Israel's nuclear program, ahead of a week in which the Islamic Republic likely will face new diplomatic pressure over its own program. The remarks by Esmail Khatib follow Iranian state television claiming Saturday that Iranian intelligence officials seized documents, again without any evidence. Israel, whose undeclared atomic weapons program makes it the only country in the Mideast with nuclear bombs, has not acknowledged any such Iranian operation targeting it — though there have been arrests of Israelis allegedly spying for Tehran amid the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

Iran, meanwhile, will likely face censure this week from the Board of Governors at the International Atomic Energy Agency over longstanding questions about its program. Iran has also signaled it will reject a proposal from the United States after five rounds of negotiations over its nuclear program — setting the stage for that long-running crisis to potentially spike as well.

Responding to questions from an Iranian state TV reporter Sunday after a Cabinet meeting, Khatib said members of the Intelligence Ministry "achieved an important treasury of strategic, operational and scientific intelligence of the Zionist regime and it was transferred into the country with God's help." He claimed thousands of pages of documents had been obtained and insisted they would be made public soon. *AP*



# NEW DISPUTES EMERGE AHEAD OF US-CHINA TALKS IN LONDON

**BEIJING**

US-China trade talks in London this week are expected to take up a series of fresh disputes that have buffeted relations, threatening a fragile truce over tariffs. Both sides agreed in Geneva last month to a 90-day suspension of most of the 100%-plus tariffs they had imposed on each other in an escalating trade war that had sparked fears of recession.

Since then, the U.S. and China have exchanged angry words over advanced semiconductors that power artificial intelligence, "rare earths" that are vital to carmakers and other industries, and visas for Chinese students at American universities. President Donald Trump spoke at length with Chinese leader Xi Jinping by phone last Thursday in an attempt to put relations back on track. Trump announced on social media the next day that trade talks would be held on Monday in London.

The latest frictions began just a day after the May 12 announcement of the Geneva agreement to "pause" tariffs for 90 days. The US Commerce Department issued guidance saying the use of Ascend AI chips from Huawei, a leading Chinese tech company, could violate U.S. export controls. That's because the chips were likely developed with American technology despite restrictions on its export to China, the guidance said.

The Chinese government wasn't pleased. One of its biggest beefs in recent years has been over US moves to limit the access of Chinese companies to technology. *AP*

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The General Public is hereby put to notice that my client intends to purchase the Schedule Property from **Mrs. Boyapati Divya Sree,** D/o Late Boyapati Rajendra Naidu, who states that she is the absolute owner and having purchased the Schedule Property vide Registered Sale Deed Dated 20/03/2025 executed by **Mr. Koratagere Siddalingaiah Anup,** S/o K.N.Siddalingaiah, which is registered as Document No. BDH-1-06020-2024-25 Dated 21/03/2025 registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bidarahalli, Bengaluru, for valuable sale consideration and the said Schedule Property comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP which stands in the name of **Mrs. Boyapati Divya Sree.**

Any person having any right, title, claim or interest in the Schedule Property must notify the undersigned with documentary proof thereof within Thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice, in case no such reply/response/intimation/information is received by us, ***within Thirty (30) days*** of publication of this notice, it shall be presumed that the title of the aforesaid owner in respect to the Schedule Property is clear, marketable and free from encumbrance/s of any kind whatsoever and no person has any right, title or interest of any nature whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof. Any objections and/or claims and/or response received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claims/ objections.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of property bearing **Muncipal No.183, Old No.171,** at present BBMP e-Aasthi/PID No.6612308204, BBMP KHATA No.171/1, formed on the Southern Portion of Property bearing No.41/12 & 41/13, situated **at Singayyanapalya Village, Devasandra Dhakle, Krishnarapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, erstwhile Bangalore South Taluk.** Now coming under the jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), previously comes under the limits of Krishnarajapura CMC, Bangalore, Measuring **East to West: 64 (Sixty Four) feet** and **North to South: 80 (Eighty) feet,** in **all measuring 5120 sq.ft. (Five thousand one hundred twenty square feet)** together with all appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on:

**East by:** Remaining Portion of Municipal No.183,
**West by:** Road;
**North by :** 30 Feet Road,
**South by:** Private Property.

*Sd/-*
**S.K. RAJENDRA, Advocate**
No.26/1-399, Near Veerabhadreshwara Swamy Temple,Hagadur, Whitefield, Bangalore-560 066. Mobile: 9845541960
Email:rajendrask2006@yahoo.co.in
Dated: 07.06.2025 Place: Bangalore

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that my clients Sri C. Mahesh S/o Channahanumaiah No.246, Samruddhi Nilaya, 3rd Cross, Magadi Main Road, Mahadeshwaranagar, Vishwaneedham, Bangalore-560 091. & Sri Byresh Sri Boregowda, No.246, 10th Cross, Prasanna Layout, Herohalli Cross, Mahadeshwaranagar, Viswaneedam, Bangalore-560 091, has negotiated and entering in to a agreement with its owner Smt Muniyamma W/ Late Munishamappa, Sri Doddavenkatappa S/o Late Byatappa & Sri Chikkavenkatappa S/o Late Bytappa Doddagangaiah, all are residing at Bettakote Village, Bettakote Post, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, to purchase the property mentioned in the schedule below. If any person having claim, right or obligations/ objections and interest in the below schedule property may kindly lodge the same with the undersigned with the copies of documents within 15 days from the date of publication by registered post to the below mentioned advocate. If no objection are received with in time stipulated it will be deemed that there are no objections/claims or right over the schedule property from any person and my client will proceed and complete sale transaction.

**SCHEDULE**

All that Piece and Parcel of the property dry land bearing Sy No.104, measuring 2-00 Acres, Situated at Rayasandra village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, and bounded on:

East By : Property of Sy No.44, West By : Government Road, North By : Property of Nalappa, South By : Property of Thimmappa & Munivenkatappa

**HM. ASSOCIATES,** ADVOCATES
No.108, Alpe Complex, III Floor, III Stage, IV Block, Basaveswarnagar,
Next to Kambi Siddaramana Convention Hall, Bangalore - 560 079.
PLACE : BANGALORE DATE: 08.06.2025

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Online Tenders is invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai – 600008, from the bidders meeting the eligibility criteria indicated in the tender document for the supply of **Safety Consumables** to TNMSC Ltd for one year from the date of acceptance of the tender.

| Sl. No | Description | e-Tender Reference | Tender Floating Period | e-Tender Submission Duration | Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Online Tender for the supply of **Safety Consumables** to TNMSC Limited under rate contract system for one year from the date of acceptance | e-013/M(P)/ CONS/ TNMSC/2025, Dated. 09.06.2025 | 09.06.2025 at 4.00 PM to 23.06.2025 upto 3.00 PM | 12.06.2025 at 10.00 AM to 23.06.2025 upto 3.00 PM | 23.06.2025 at 4.00 PM |

The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at **https://tntenders.gov.in.** The tender document can also be downloaded at **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in** for reference purpose.

DIPR/2882/Tender/2025

**Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs))**

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**INDULGE**

**IN THE COURT OF THE XXTH ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU**
**O.S. No. 8519/2017** (CCH-32)

**BETWEEN : SRI. HEMANTH KUMAR,** S/o. late Shivappa, Aged about 37 years, Residing at No. 100, Ashram Road, Kashinagar, Near Alfa Factory, Yelachenahalli, J.P. Nagar, Bangalore-560078.
...PLAINTIFF

**AND : 1) SMT. GOWRAMMA,** W/o. late Shivappa, Aged about 65 years
**2) SRI. RENUKAPPA,** S/o. late Shivappa, Aged about 42 years,
The Defendant No. 1 & 2 are Residing at No. 100, Ashram Road, Kashinagar, Near Alfa Factory, Yelachenahalli, J.P. Nagar, Bangalore-560078.
**3) SMT. RAMYA @ RAJAMMA,** D/o. late Shivappa Aged about 39 years, Residing at No.82, Ashram Road, Kashinagar, Near Alfa Factory, Yelachenahalli, J.P. Nagar, Bangalore-560078.
...DEFENDANTS

**Issue Notice to Defendant No.2 U/o - V, R-20 of the Code of Civil Procedure by way of paper publication.**

**DEFENDANT No. 2 : SRI. RENUKAPPA** S/o. late Shivappa, Aged about 42 years, Residing at No. 100, Ashram Road, Kashinagar, Near Alfa Factory, Yelachenahalli, J.P. Nagar, Bangalore-560078.

Whereas the plaintiff named above has filed the above suit seeking partition and other reliefs, of this Hon'ble court. You are hereby summoned to appear before this court in person or by a pleader **on the day of 25.7.2025 at 11 '0' Clock** to answer the same. Failing which the suit will be heard and determined as ex-parte.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTIES**

**ITEM No. 1 :** All that piece and parcel of the at Site No.27, Sy.No.50/1, situated at Yelachenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, the site measuring 45X30 feet bounded on the:- East by: Road, West by: Site No.21, North by: Road, South by: Site No.28

**ITEM No. 2 :** All that piece and parcel of property katha No. 50/1, Ward No. 185, build up are 300 sq.ft East to West 15 feet and North to South 4 feet, total measuring 630 sq.ft. Situated at Yelachenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, bounded on the:- East by : Private property, West by: Passages, North by: Road, South by: Passage and private property.

**ITEM No. 3 :** All that piece and parcel Site No: 31, present BBMP No. 725/2-B measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 33 feet, Situated at Yelachenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore bounded on the:- East by: Site No. 32, West by : Site No. 30, North by: Road, South by: others property.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court This Day of 4.6.2025.

**By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.**
Advocate for Plaintiff :
**S. Sudarsana Reddy** (Reg. No. 24/78)
**B.N. Jagadeesh Reddy** (Reg. No. 905/92)
**K. Venkata Sudheer** (Reg. No. 1677/98)
Advocates
# 548/51/1, 1st Floor, Guruthman Park, Andal Temple Street, (Behind R.V. Teachers College), R.V. Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560 004. Mobile: 93425 81056

**BEFORE THE COURT OF THE III ADDITIONAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH - 25)**
**P & SC No. 67/ 2025**

**BETWEEN: 1.MRS. SITA DEVI RATHI, @ MRS. SITA RATHI** Aged about 70 years, Wife of Late Jeevaraj Rathi Residing at No. 21, Nanjappa Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027 ... **PETITIONER NO. 1**
**2.MR. VIKRAM J RATHI, @ MR.VIKRAM RATHI** Aged about 51 years, Son of Late Jeevraj Rathi, Residing at No. 21, Nanjappa Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027 ... **PETITIONER NO. 2**
**3. MRS. NAMITA SOMANI,** aged about 48 years, Daughter of Late Jeevaraj Rathi, Residing at No. 16, 29th Main, BTM 2nd stage, Bangalore-560076. ... **PETITIONER NO. 3**
**4. MR. PRASHANT J RATHI @ MR. PRASHANT RATHI** Aged about 46 years, Son of Late Jeevraj Rathi, Residing at No. 21, Nanjappa Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027. ... **PETITIONER NO. 4**
**5.MRS. SWETA MARDA,** aged about 45 years, Daughter of Late Jeevaraj Rathi, Residing at No. C 1602, SNN Raj Lake View Phase-2, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560076. ... **PETITIONER NO. 5**
**AND:** NIL ... **RESPONDENTS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas the Applicants above named, have preferred the above petition seeking the grant of succession certificate in their favour with respect to the assets and liabilities of Late. Mr Jeevaraj Rathi who expired on 05.05.2005. Anyone having any objections to the grant of the succession certificate in the name of Applicants above named is required to be present before the Additional District and Sessions Judge, Bangalore City at City Civil Court (CCH - 25) in person or by a pleader on the **05-07-2025** at 11.00 a.m to answer the same, failing which the petition will be heard and disposed off ex - parte.

**SCHEDULE**

**Item No. 1:**

| Sl No. | Bank | A/c No. | Amount (in Rs.) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Canara Bank, Shantinagar Branch | 04572010014146 | 4,74,705.71 |
| 2. | PPF Account Number attached to State Bank of India, St. Marks Road Branch | 10977288640 | 11,50,342.36 |

**Item No. 2:**

| | ISIN Code | Quantity |
|---|---|---|
| Aditya Birla Capital Ltd | INE674K01013 | 74 |
| Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd | INE647001011 | 98 |
| Grasim Industries Ltd | INE047A01021 | 53 |
| ICICI Bank Ltd | INE090A01021 | 550 |
| Pasari Spinning Mill Ltd | INE604F01010 | 400 |
| Ultratech Cement Ltd | INE481G01011 | 2 |
| Union Bank of India Ltd | INE692A01016 | 2900 |

**Item No. 3:**

| Name of Company | Type | Quantity | Folio No |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tata Metaliks Ltd. | Debentures | 25 | 115981 |
| Tata Metaliks Ltd. | Debentures | 25 | 115982 |
| Tata Metaliks Ltd. | Equity Shares | 100 | 115981 |
| Tata Metaliks Ltd. | Equity Shares | 100 | 115982 |
| The Indian Rayon Corporation Ltd. | Debentures | 5 | 11861 |
| India Rayon and Industries Ltd. | Debentures | 28 | 11861 |
| Grasim Industries Ltd | Equity shares | 19 | 640651 |

Given under my hand and seal of the Hon'ble Court of the Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, (CCH – 25) at Bengaluru on this the 5th day of May 2025.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT, ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, CITY CIVIL COURT, BANGALORE.

ADVOCATE FOR PETITIONER: **HARSHITH N BALAKRISHNA,**
No. 15/5, First Floor, Wood Street, Richmond Road, Ashoknagar, Bengaluru-560025.

**IN COURT OF THE HON'BLE 82nd ADDL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE (COMMERCIAL COURT DIVISION) (CH - 83) AT BENGALURU**
**Com. A.A. No. 48 OF 2025**

**PETITIONER: Jayshree Dealer Private Limited,** Having Office at: 4, Synagogue Street, 8th Floor, Room818, Writer's Building, West Bengal, Kolkata – 700001. Represented by its authorised Representative Ms. Melinda Lobo

**-V/s-**

**RESPONDENTS: Joules health Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.** and Ors

**NOTICE/SUMMONS TO THE RESPONDENTS ISSUED UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20 (1A) OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, 1908**

To, **1. JOULES HEALTH ENTERPRISE PRIVATE LIMITED,** (a) 255/310, Kundri Rakabganij, Rajendra Nagar, Lucknow-226004, Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Also at: Sri Kanta Nilayam, No.2776, 1st Floor, 21st Main Road, Agara Village, 1st Sector, HSR Layout, Bengaluru 560 102. Mob: 9999439953 , Email: siddharth@joulesheath.com Represented by its Authorised Representative ... **RESPONDENT No. 1**

**2. MS. YASHA BAJPAI,** (a) H301, SRK Garden Apartment, Kudlu Road, Kudlu Govt School, Kudlu, Bommanahalli, Anekal, Bengaluru 560 068.

(b) B2-412, Mahendra Aarna Apartment, Ananth Nagar, Electronic City Phase II, Kammasandra, Bengaluru 560 100. Mob: 7899002496, Email: bbajpaiyasha@gmail.com ... **RESPONDENT No.3**

Wherefore, the above-named Petitioner instituted a petition against the Respondents under section 9(1) (ii) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 seeking attach/ debit freeze the bank account to the extent of Rs.35,58,737/-. Respondent No. 1 and 3 is hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble City Civil and Sessions Court (Commercial Court Division) (CH-83) on **02-07-2025** at 11:00 AM in person or through advocate/pleader to answer the questions to the same. Failing which the petition will be heard and determined as ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on 02-06-2025.

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, Commercial Court Unit, City Civil Court Bangalore.

**VARUN .S**
**VRUKSHA LAW CHAMBERS**
No.68, Ground Floor, Chitrapur Bhavan, 15th cross, 8th main road, Malleswaram, Bengaluru – 560055. Mobile: 9967444008, Email: varun@vrukshalachambers.com

**JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK** (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)
**Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.**

**DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.**

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

| Sr. No. | Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor | Loan Account No. & Loan Amount | Details of the Security to be enforced | Date of NPA & Demand Notice date | Amount Due in Rs. / as on |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1) Mr. Prakasha, 2) Mrs. Chandramma | Loan Account No. 45350430000940 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- | **Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing khata No.264/45/1, RDPR No.152900202700400243, measuring East to West 8.70 meters and North to South 9.60 meters, situated at Mullahalli Village, Mullahalli Grama Panchayath, Uyyambahalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramangara District. **Bounded on: East by:** Remaining Property, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Property belong to Ananda and Umesh, **South by:** Property belong to Chikkaiah. | Date of NPA: 01-06-2025 Demand Notice Date: 06-06-2025 | **Rs.4,88,486.13** (Rupees Four Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Six and Thirteen Paisa Only) **due as on 03-06-2025** |
| 2 | 1) Mr. Ratnamma, 2) Mrs. Ashwath Venkatagiriyaiah, 3) Mrs. Ramya | Loan Account No. 47040430000676 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- | **Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Property No.91/95, Assessment No.1293, Sl.No.229, measuring East to West 9.1463 and North to South 12.1951 situated at 3rd Block Kodipura Village, Kodihalli Grama Panchayath, Kodihalli Hobali, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagar District and **Bounded on: East:** House belongs to Lakshmamma, **West:** House belongs to Girimadaiah, **North:** Road, **South:** House belongs to Ravi. | Date of NPA: 01-06-2025 Demand Notice Date: 05-06-2025 | **Rs.5,04,037.09** (Rupees Five Lakh Four Thousand Thirty Seven and Nine Paisa Only) **due as on 03-06-2025** |

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

**Date: 09.06.2025, Place: Ramanagara** **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

**₹8,749 CR** have been withdrawn by foreign investors from Indian equities so far.

# RBI's new, unified gold & silver loan rules

The new rules, which will be effective from 1 April 2026, attempts to standardise the existing guidelines

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the Loan-to-Value (LTV) ratio for loan against gold and silver to 85% for loans up to ₹2.5 lakh. This is part of RBI's new comprehensive set of rules for lending against gold and silver. The new rules, which will be effective from 1 April 2026, attempts to standardise and harmonise the existing guidelines and introduce new measures for better oversight, conduct, and consumer protection.

**Here are the key highlights of the new rules:**

**Scope and purview of the rules:** These rules apply to all commercial banks (excluding Payments Banks), primary (urban) and rural cooperative banks, and all Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), including Housing Finance Companies (HFCs). They cover loans for both consumption and income generation purposes where eligible gold or silver collateral is accepted.

**Clear credit policy:** Lenders are required to have a clear credit policy that should stipulate limits for single borrower as well as for aggregate portfolio and maximum LTV ratios. The policy must also detail valuation standards, gold/silver purity norms, and documentation for priority sector lending. For loans exceeding ₹2.5 lakh, a detailed credit assessment, including repayment capacity, is now compulsory.

**Revised Loan-to-Value (LTV) ratio:** The directions introduce a tiered maximum LTV ratio for consumption loans:

- Up to ₹2.5 lakh: **85%**
- Above ₹2.5 lakh up to ₹5 lakh: **80%**
- Above ₹5 lakh: **75%**

This prescribed LTV ratio must be maintained throughout the loan tenor.

**Standardised valuation procedures:** Lenders must have a uniform procedure for measuring the purity and net weight of gold and silver collaterals. The rules require the presence of the borrower during assaying, with all deductions and defects clearly explained and documented in a certificate provided to the borrower.

**No loan against ETFs, bullion:** Lenders cannot offer loans against primary gold or silver (bullion, ETFs). One can pledge only up to 1 kg of gold ornaments and 10 kgs of silver ornaments for availing loan. Loans against coins are limited to 50 grams for gold and 500 grams for silver.

The tenure for bullet repayment consumption loans is capped at 12 months, with renewals subject to credit assessment and payment of accrued interest.

**SoP for Storage, auction, etc:** Strict guidelines have been laid out for the handling, storage, and surprise verification of collateral.

The lenders have now been asked to provide adequate notice to borrowers through regional and national newspaper advertisements before auctioning the pledged gold or silver.

The first auction must be physical and conducted in the same district as the lending branch. Reserve prices are set at a minimum of 90% of current value, decreasing to 85% if the first two auctions fail.

**Compensation and Unclaimed Collateral:** Borrowers will be compensated for any damage or loss to pledged collateral attributable to the lender.

In cases of delay by lenders in releasing pledged collateral after full repayment, compensation of ₹5,000 per day will be paid to the borrower beyond the prescribed seven working days.

IN CONVERSATION

**BASKAR SUBRAMANIAN**
*CEO & Co-Founder of Amagi*

# 'We don't have any compulsion to go for IPO tomorrow'

BENGALURU-BASED media technology company Amagi, which has initiated an initial public offering (IPO) process recently, is now expanding into Japan, Australia, Latin America, France and Germany. In an interaction with **Uma Kannan**, **Baskar Subramanian**, CEO & Co-Founder of Amagi, says they are seeing a tremendous opportunity in front of them for the next 10 years where they can build extremely large media tech company in the world and that they don't have any compulsion to go public tomorrow. The company's annual revenue in FY24 stood at ₹942 crore. Edited excerpts:

**You are a media SaaS unicorn and have been in the business for over 15 years now. What does the market look like?**

Our customers are TV channels, content creators, live producers, sports news, and anybody who is creating content in the mid-tier to large enterprises. We don't work with the creator economy and influencer economy today; we don't have any product portfolio for it, but we work with the larger mid to enterprise sort of customers. Fundamentally, the world is becoming streaming, and all of us are only watching on IP, internet devices, be it on our phone or connected television, what we call smart TV in India. This has changed things for our customers. One, it's fragmentation of viewership. In the early days of cable, you could go to one channel and always watch the content. Now there are so many places where people are consuming content, be it YouTube, Netflix, Prime, social platforms, connected TV devices to everywhere else and this is becoming a big challenge for the broadcasters and TV channels. This is very similar to what happened in the retail industry. Suddenly people are buying in supermarkets, e-commerce stores and now quick commerce.

**Amagi's competition is all traditional hardware players. We are the only company that talks about a glass-to-glass complete end solution.**

**TV is now connected in every home in India. How are you looking at the Indian market?**

In India, we have clients, and the country has obviously dramatically changed, given 5G connections. Here we work with Samsung, whose many channels are coming to Samsung TV Plus with the backend being Amagi. We work with the likes of Republic TV, Times Now and Zee television and provide OTT content. India is a growing market and we have now started to expand but the country is only very close to about a percentage (1%) of our revenue. So, we continue to have a big focus on the international markets with 70% revenue coming from the US. However, we are seeing India as a growing market and it will start to become bigger and bigger for us as we go forward.

**What are the market opportunities that you are seeing, and whether you have competitors in India as well as outside?**

We started in the US, expanded into Europe, and then in Asia, we started in Singapore. We are now expanding into Japan, Australia, Latin America, France, and Germany. It's a global market and we are seeing a tremendous opportunity in front of us for the next 10 years where we can build an extremely large, world-class media tech company in the world. Amagi's competition is all traditional hardware players. And we are the only company in the world that talks about a glass-to-glass complete end solution.

**It is reported that you are looking to raise ₹3,200 crore through a public listing. Are you planning to hit an IPO soon?**

If we go for an IPO, we'll go in India. Going through the process, understanding and evaluating markets are very different. We don't know when we do it because timing matters in this industry. As a company, we don't have any compulsion to go for an IPO tomorrow. We are a profitable company, we have money in the bank and we have investors who came in 2022. So, the idea is that eventually we will have to be a public company. If the market is really good, then maybe by the end of the year (we will go for the IPO), or else next year.

MONEY-WISE

# RISKS, REWARDS & LARGE—CAP FUNDS

FINANCIAL ADVICE

**ASHOK KUMAR**
*Head of LKW-India.*
*He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com*
*(Views expressed here are personal)*

I Once met a later investment life-cycle stage couple who wanted to invest one-third of their portfolio in equity mutual funds. They informed me that thus far they had always invested directly in shares and inspite of following every 'Rule' of Investing they had read of in 'best-selling' investment books, had ended up losing more often than gaining.

They told me that they bought only blue-chip stocks. On studying their portfolio, I found that for them blue-chip meant familiar 'brand-names'. Now some of these worthies fell in the small-cap category as defined by SEBI. I felt that ideally, someone in the investment life-cycle stage of wealth consolidation they were would have been better served by building their equity portfolio component around the category of Large and Mid-Cap Funds. These funds were introduced as a separate category of Equity Funds by SEBI in October 2017. As opposed to a pure large cap fund or a mid cap fund, these funds have the leeway to diversify their investments across a single fund.

A Large and Mid Cap Fund, by definition is a type of equity fund that invests at least 35% of its AUM in large cap stocks and another 35% in mid cap stocks with leeway to invest more thereafter in either category as well as in debt and money market instruments. As it is a pure equity fund, one must have a long term investment horizon while investing in this category, since like all pure equity funds, its risk multiplies if targeted for short term investments.

Like other Equity funds, this category too is taxed at the rate of 12.5% for Long Term Capital Gains (LTCG) made on the sale of units priced at over ₹1.25 lakh, and 20% for Short Term Capital Gains (STCG) if the units are sold within the time period of 1 year from the date of allotment

These funds which effectively invest in the top 250 listed companies in terms of market capitalisation have the combined features of Large Cap and Mid Cap Funds which offer relatively better stability, balance of risk and potential for reasonable returns in the long term.

With a comparatively more limited universe of stocks to select from as compared to Flexi-cap or Multi-Cap funds that have the mandate to invest across market capitalisations, the onus remains on beating the benchmark index. That quite a few of them have managed to do so over multiple time frames suggests that there could be a case for Active over Passive funds in the Indian market, for longer than originally anticipated.

In the meanwhile, the couple I mentioned at the start of this column woke up to the categorisation of funds by SEBI and how it can be used to determine their risk-reward ratio. Their investment journey would hopefully have been be a lot smoother and more profitable too, thereon.

MONEY MATTERS

# USING AI FOR YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

**RAJAS KELKAR**
*(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)*

TECHNOLOGY is a disruptor for some, and for others, it is a tool. Those disrupted will ponder the pros and cons, the need for that disruption and its impact on their lives. The rest will take new technologies in their stride and move forward. Whatever category you belong to, you need to adapt to those changes. While at work, there is fear of losing a job as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and other technologies are making human-led work processes redundant. You must remember that the fear of technology is due to inadequate knowledge. You are unaware of the use.

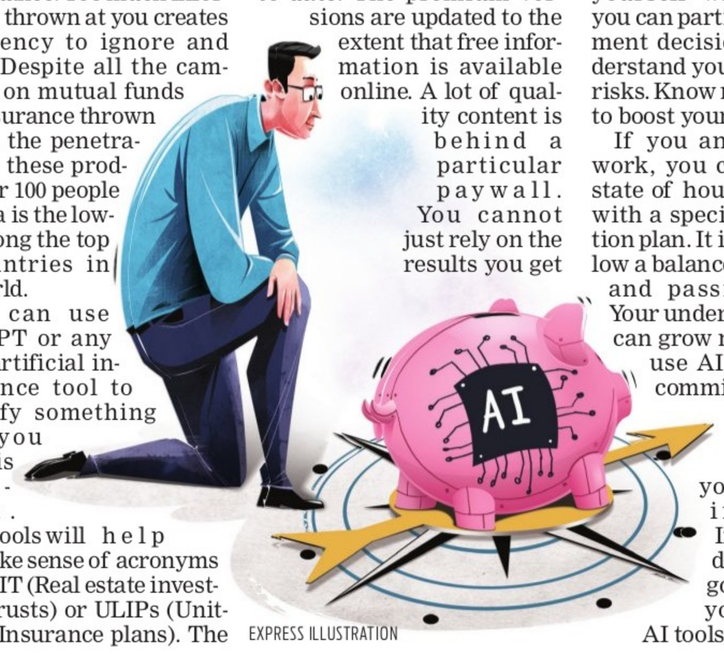
From a personal finance standpoint, there is a lot of merit in using technology to expand the scope of your knowledge. That has been the Achilles heel for people who want to participate in their financial future. There is a lot of boredom associated with the word 'finance'. If there is a cognitive overload, it leads to avoidance. Too much information thrown at you creates a tendency to ignore and avoid. Despite all the campaigns on mutual funds and insurance thrown at you, the penetration of these products per 100 people in India is the lowest among the top 20 countries in the world.

You can use ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence tool to simplify something that you think is complex. These tools will help you make sense of acronyms like REIT (Real estate investment trusts) or ULIPs (Unit-linked Insurance plans). The trick is to enter the prompt that best describes your query or the situation. You can be specific, like 'Create a retirement plan for a 35-year-old earning ₹1 lakh per month'. The AI tools may not be accurate, but they can give you a sense of direction and a basic understanding when you meet your financial advisor and discuss the specifics, which will save time. You must not act directly on the answers you get from artificial intelligence tools.

The free versions of those tools have not been updated to date. The premium versions are updated to the extent that free information is available online. A lot of quality content is behind a particular paywall. You cannot just rely on the results you get for your queries in AI tools. Besides ChatGPT-type tools, some fintech companies offer personal finance services, such as portfolio creation or management. If you are a direct investor, you can use AI tools to create a portfolio of fundamentally strong companies for the long term. You can apply the same tools for a mutual fund portfolio. The same philosophy applies here. You cannot just rely on these firms or tools for financial advice. In addition to technology, you should work with a professional financial advisor.

The best part of AI tools is that they can help you with discussions you could have with your financial advisor. You can discuss the current financial situation, such as interest rates, stock prices, or an asset allocation plan. The meeting will be far more meaningful than a monologue from your advisor about the discipline of investing and you simply following the suggestions made by the advisor. By arming yourself with knowledge, you can participate in investment decision-making. Understand your ability to take risks. Know more about ways to boost your income.

If you and your spouse work, you can discuss the state of household finances with a specific asset allocation plan. It is essential to follow a balance between active and passive investing. Your understanding of that can grow multi-fold if you use AI tools. The RBI committee cut key borrowing rates recently, which would impact your money and investments. If you do not understand the jargon in the media, you can look up AI tools to simplify.




EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

# HDFC Bank denies fraud allegations by Lilavati Trust

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

HDFC Bank has issued a strong rebuttal against allegations of financial fraud targeting the bank and its CEO, Sashidhar Jagdishan. In a statement on Sunday, the bank asserted these accusations are part of a campaign by "unscrupulous persons" abusing the legal system to obstruct the recovery of a long-standing loan from defaulters, specifically Splendour Gems Limited (formerly Beautiful Diamonds Limited).

The allegations stem from a complaint by the Lilavati Kirtilal Mehta Medical Trust (LKMM Trust). The trust accuses Jagdishan of accepting a significant sum to harass the father of a trust member, presenting handwritten diary entries as purported evidence. The trust seeks punitive action against the CEO, including suspension and prosecution. HDFC Bank firmly denies all accusations, labeling them "completely false, outrageous, malicious, and baseless." It links the complaint directly to its efforts to recover dues from Splendour Gems, owned by the Mehta family. According to the bank, Splendour Gems defaulted in 2001 on loan facilities granted in 1995 by an HDFC-led consortium. Despite a 2004 Debt Recovery Tribunal certificate and subsequent enforcement actions, the bank says, the outstanding amount owed to HDFC Bank alone, including interest, stood at approximately ₹65.22 crore as of May 31, 2025. The bank states that members of the Mehta family have repeatedly initiated legal actions against HDFC Bank and its officials. These actions, it claims, have been dismissed or are under challenge. The latest trust complaint is seen as another retaliatory move with "mala fide intention" solely aimed at evading repayment.

# Gautam Adani draws ₹10.41 cr pay in FY25

PTI @ New Delhi

INDIA'S second richest person Gautam Adani received a total remuneration of ₹10.41 crore in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025, lower than most industry peers and his own key executives.

Adani, 62, drew salaries from two out of the nine listed companies in his ports-to-energy conglomerate, the latest annual reports of the listed entities of the group showed.

His total remuneration was 12% more than the ₹9.26 crore he had earned in the previous 2023-24 financial year. His remuneration for 2024-25 from the group's flagship firm Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) included ₹2.26 crore salary and another ₹28 lakh in perquisites, allowances and other benefits.

# Reliance Infrastructure takes flight with ₹5k cr bet on aircraft upgrade business

PTI @ New Delhi

RELIANCE Infrastructure is looking to turbocharge its defence vertical with a focus on aircraft upgrade programmes, eyeing an opportunity of ₹5,000 crore over the next 7-10 years, sources said.

This strategic foray positions Reliance Infrastructure as India's first private sector company to independently execute a comprehensive aircraft upgrade programme without being the original manufacturer —a domain traditionally dominated by public sector units and OEMs. According to a company source, the company has already marked a significant milestone by successfully upgrading 55 Dornier-228 aircraft under a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), in collaboration with US-based avionics firm Genesys. Initially awarded a contract for 37 aircraft, Reliance secured a repeat order for an additional 18 units following the successful execution of an earlier contract. The total value of the Dornier upgrade contract was ₹350 crore, sources said. The upgraded Dornier fleet is operational with the Indian Air Force, Indian Navy, and Indian Coast Guard. With military aircraft and helicopters having a service life of 30-40 years, regular upgrades -- particularly of avionics, mission systems, and safety equipment—are vital. Industry experts estimate that lifecycle investments in upgrades and MRO can reach up to 200-300% of the original acquisition cost of a platform. Globally, the market for military aircraft and helicopter upgrades stands at over ₹5,00,000 crore annually, and is projected to rise to ₹7,00,000 crore in the next seven years. India, with a vast inventory of legacy platforms, offers a substantial domestic opportunity, especially as the armed forces modernise older fleets for next-gen warfare.

*Super show: Antonsen & An toppers in Indonesia*

Anders Antonsen clinched his first Indonesia Open title after beating Chou Tien-chen of Taiwan, while South Korea's An Se-young won her second championship in Jakarta. Antonsen beat Chou 22-20, 21-14 to secure the prestigious Super 1000 event. In the women's singles final, World No 1 An beat China's Wang Zhi Yi (13-21, 21-19, 21-15).



# Don Carlos: Back from brink

Trailing 5-3, 40-0 in the 4th set, Alcaraz rallies to defend title in longest French Open final

**AGENCIES** @ Paris

CARLOS Alcaraz saved three championship points as he produced an astonishing fightback from two sets down to beat Jannik Sinner in a French Open final for the ages on Sunday.

Reigning champion Alcaraz rallied from the brink of defeat to overcome world number one Sinner 4-6, 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (10/2) to clinch his fifth Grand Slam title after five hours and 29 minutes.

The 22-year-old Spaniard is now unbeaten in five Grand Slam finals after snapping Sinner's 20-match winning run at the majors.

Alcaraz pulled off his first ever comeback from two sets down to stun Sinner in the longest Roland Garros final in history. It easily eclipsed the 1982 final in Paris when Mats Wilander triumphed in four sets over Guillermo Vilas in 4hr 42min.

Alcaraz becomes the third youngest man to win five Grand Slams — after Bjorn Borg and compatriot Rafael Nadal — following an incredible duel between the two stars of a new generation.

Sinner fell agonisingly short of a third successive Grand Slam crown after last year's US Open title and back-to-back Australian Open triumphs.

He suffered his fifth straight loss to Alcaraz in what was their first meeting in a Grand Slam final — and the first championship match at a major between two men born in the 2000s.

Alcaraz leads 8-5 overall having also beaten Sinner to win in Rome, where the Italian returned to competition after a three-month doping ban.

Carlos Alcaraz reacts after winning the French Open title on Sunday | AP

**ROAD TO TITLE**

**1st round:** bt Giulio Zeppieri (ITA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2

**2nd round:** bt Fabian Marozsan (HUN) 6-1, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2

**3rd round:** bt Damir Dzumhur (BIH) 6-1, 6-3, 4-6 6-4

**4th round:** bt Ben Shelton (USA) 7-6 (10-8), 6-3, 4-6, 6-4

**Quarterfinal:** bt Tommy Paul (USA) 6-0, 6-1, 6-4

**Semifinal:** bt Lorenzo Musetti (ITA) 4-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-0, 2-0

**Final:** bt Jannik Sinner (ITA x1) 4-6, 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (10/2)

### Self-belief behind Coco title

A little bit of self-persuasion went a very long way for Coco Gauff, whose victory at the French Open gave the 21-year-old American a trophy she has long coveted, and a second Major title.

Gauff defeated top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-4 on Saturday to add to her US Open title two years ago.

Sabalenka had been the more in-form player heading into the final and Gauff felt she needed some extra motivation.

So she drew inspiration from Gabby Thomas, who became the women's Olympic 200-meter champion at last year's Paris Olympics. Thomas had kept writing down that she would be the Olympic champion in her Notes app, so Gauff tried adopting the same approach and grabbed a piece of paper.

"I wrote, 'I will be French Open champion 2025' like a bunch of times," Gauff explained. "She (Thomas) wrote 'I will be the Olympic champion' and she ended up winning the gold. I think it's a great mindset that she had."

Eight lines on a piece of paper written by Gauff late on a Friday night, then it was finally time for bed, time to rest.

Not quite.

Gauff then persuaded herself a little bit more, by staring at the mirror and convincing herself she was looking at the face of a soon-to-be French Open champion.

"Looking at myself in the mirror so I was trying to instil that belief, and obviously it happened. I didn't know if it was going to work or not. (But) it did," Gauff said, then laughed as she added: "When you're desperate, you're just trying anything to think that it's going to help you win."

WTC FINAL

# BAVUMA'S PROTEAS CHASE LONG-AWAITED GLORY

**ASHOK VENUGOPAL** @ Chennai

WHEN Temba Bavuma, donning the South African blazer, walks onto the field at the Lords on June 11 for the World Test Championship final against Australia, it won't just be about winning an ICC trophy, but a lot more. South Africa, across men and women, have been one of the consistent teams when it comes to global events. However, their last senior ICC title came 27 years ago during the inaugural Champions Trophy in 1998.

As much as it is about crossing the final hurdle, the upcoming WTC final has a lot more at stake for South Africa and Bavuma. The 35-year-old, should he lead his team to glory against the defending champions, will become the first captain of colour to bring the rainbow nation cricketing glory. It is not just that. With the advent of SA20, and the rise of franchise-based tournaments, the priority of Test cricket and central contracts have come into question. Last year, several senior players were playing SA20 while South Africa sent a second-string team to New Zealand for two Tests. In the 12 months, several top players, including Heinrich Klaasen, have contested their central contract and even announced retirements.

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma during a training session | ICC

A win in the World Test Championship final would not just allow South Africa to focus and invest more on red-ball cricket but also encourage the up-and-coming young talents in the country to prioritise the longer format. Former South Africa cricketer and noted coach Eric Simons, who has been on and off coaching the South African team, insists that the Bavuma led-side has nothing to lose and that they will go all out against Australia. "A lot of interest (back home) as you would expect for a team playing in a prestigious event such as the WTC. South Africa is a very passionate sporting nation and a match like this brings many people together, even those that generally do not follow cricket. The interest will no doubt pick up when the match starts and the conversations can have direct context," Simons told this daily.

"Although the WTC is a relatively new ICC initiative in the context of other ICC events, it has already developed a significant status. CSA made a conscious decision to qualify for the event in spite of it being an uphill battle to reach it based on the position the team was in a few months ago. Selection of the different format squads appeared to show the importance CSA put on qualification as they made sure the best XI was available, New Zealand series being the exception for other reasons," he added.

Although Australia are the defending champs and are coming into the match as favourites, Simons believes that it allows South Africa to come out all guns blazing. The fact that they have brought on Stuart Broad as a mentor to make the most of his experience with the Dukes ball could also come in handy. "Australia are justifiably the favourites but that is not a bad situation for the SA to be in. Backs to the wall and nothing to lose attitude will be a good mindset to have going into the match. It would appear they might have a slight edge, so yes, but there are a few SA players with significant experience and whose play suits the conditions. Also some local players/coaches have been drafted to assist with preparations."

**Full story: newindianexpress.com**

## Khaleel shines with four-fer

ENGLISH TEST

NORTHAMPTON: Left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed produced a penetrating spell of seam bowling, returning with figures of 4/70 as England Lions were bowled out for 327, handing India A a 21-run first-innings lead at tea on day three of the second unofficial Test, here on Sunday. Resuming at 192/3, the hosts suffered a dramatic collapse in the morning session, losing four wickets for just 10 runs. At stumps, India A were 163/4 with Abhimanyu Easwaran scoring a fifty (80).



India captain Shubman Gill along with his teammates and support staff during a training session at Beckenham on Sunday. India are having a 10-day camp before the five-Test series vs England | BCCI

UTT 2025

## Kolkata beat Goa Challengers

**AGENCIES** @ Ahmedabad

WITH Ankur Bhattacharjee, Quadri Aruna, and Adriana Diaz all winning their singles rubbers, Kolkata Thunder Blades beat reigning champions Dempo Goa Challengers 9-6 in the Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) Season 6 on Sunday. Kolkata's victory saw them move into the playoff spots. They occupy the fourth spot with 29 points. Goa, with six more game wins on the board, moved level on points with leaders Jaipur Patriots and U Mumba TT.

The tie opened with a gripping clash between two of the league's best, Aruna versus Goa captain Harmeet Desai. The latter pocketed the opening game but Aruna bounced back to take the next two games. Adriana followed that up with a dominant 3-0 win over Krittwika Sinha Roy. Ankur and Diaz kept the momentum alive in the doubles, edging Harmeet and Zeng Jian in a tight 2-1 win, their first of the season as a pair. Ankur returned to the table and showcased his class, coming back from a game down to overwhelm Ronit Bhanja 11-1 in the decider, maintaining his unbeaten start. Zeng gave Goa a strong finish with a dominant 3-0 win over Selena Selvakumar.

EXPRESS READ

### Diksha stays within top 10 after third round

TENERIFE: Diksha Dagar carded an even par 72 to hold her position within the top 10 after the third round of the Tenerife Women's Open at Abama Golf. Diksha is placed sole 9th in the standings. In Gainesville (USA), Anirban Lahiri put himself in pole position as he shot 7-under 64 to move to 11-under and one shot ahead of the field.

### Bandra enter T20 Mumbai League semis

MUMBAI: Riding on a century stand by Suved Parkar (76) and Vikrant Auti (56), Bandra Blasters entered the semifinals of the T20 Mumbai League, overpowering MSC Maratha Royals by eight wickets. The Blasters joined Eagle Thane Strikers, SoBo Mumbai Falcons and MSC Maratha Royals in the last four stage.

### Hockey: India men eye comeback vs the Dutch

AMSTELVEEN: The Indian men's hockey team will look to bounce back from its narrow defeat in the opener when they take on The Netherlands in the European leg of the FIH Pro League here on Monday. India squandered a one goal lead to lose 1-2 to Olympic champions Netherlands in the first match on Saturday.

# France edge past Germany to claim bronze

**AGENCIES** @ Munich

KYLIAN Mbappe bagged a goal and an assist as France beat Germany 2-0 in the Nations League bronze-medal match in Stuttgart on Sunday. Mbappe wove his magic in a heavily changed France squad.

Germany dominated the opening half but Mbappe provided the breakthrough just before half-time, carving a shot through a crowded penalty box to bring up his 50th goal in France colours. Late in the second, with the hosts desperately looking for an equaliser, Mbappe snatched a poor German pass on the half-way line and rampaged forward, before setting up Michael Olise.

The French showed their incredible depth, while Mbappe again demonstrated his finishing and pace. For Germany, who lost two straight straight matches for the first time since 2023, questions remain over how much they have truly improved under Julian Nagelsmann. In the lead-up to Sunday's encounter, France coach Didier Deschamps admitted the Nations League clash with old rivals Germany "isn't the most important game for us," with a clear focus on next year's World Cup. Deschamps made eight changes from the semi-final loss to Spain, with only captain Mbappe, goalie Mike Maignan and midfield veteran Adrien Rabiot keeping their starting spots. Nagelsmann also rotated heavily, making four changes including bringing striker Niclas Fuellkrug back into the starting XI.

France's Kylian Mbappe celebrates his goal against Germany on Sunday | AFP

The Germans had a wealth of chances in the opening half. Karim Adeyemi won a penalty but it was overturned by VAR for diving with. Florian Wirtz hit the post. Mbappe struck just before half-time. The Real Madrid man collected a pass which floated over the 1.77-metre tall Joshua Kimmich's head, took a touch and hammered a shot home with his preferred right foot.

# Indian athletes dominate show in Taiwan Open

**AGENCIES** @ Taipei City

THE Indian contingent won as many as six gold medals, including double podium finishes in women's 800m final and long jump competition, on the second and final day of Taiwan Open international athletics championship here on Sunday. Three-time national champion Vithya Ramraj, Rohit Yadav, Pooja, Krishan Kumar and Annu Rani won the gold medal in their respective events.

Also winning gold was the team of Santosh T, Vishal TK, Dharamveer Chaudhary, and Manu TS, the quartet finishing on top of the podium in the men's 4x400m event with a championship record of 3:05.58s to sign off the country's successful campaign on a positive note. Yashas Palaksha rallied to win silver in the men's 400m hurdles with a personal best timing of 42.22s.

Vithya clocked 56.53s to strike gold in the women's 400m hurdles event, her third best time of the year helping the athlete to gain some useful ranking points for the upcoming World Championships. Meanwhile, Rohit could not breach the 75m mark in the men's javelin throw competition but a best throw of 74.42m was enough for him to claim gold. Pooja won the women's 800m final. In the women's long jump, Shaili Singh (6.41m) and Ancy Sojan (6.39m) then won the silver and bronze medals respectively, finishing behind Delta Amidzovski (6.49m).

RUGBY LEAGUE

# *Hope that rugby can become top-five sport in the country: RI president Bose*

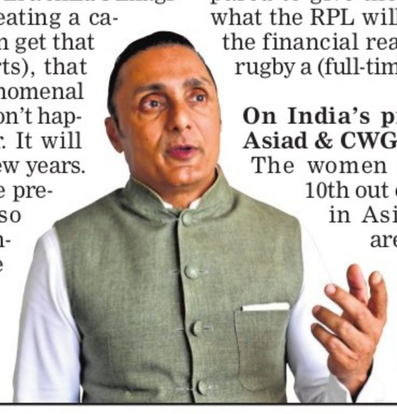
**CHANDRA PRABHU** @ Bhubaneswar

FRANCHISE-BASED leagues have become a trend in India for the last few years or so. The latest to join the bandwagon is the Rugby Premier League (RPL), which will be held in rugby sevens format. The inaugural edition of the RPL, which will feature six franchises based out of Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bhubaneswar and Delhi, is set to kick-start on June 15 with the final set to be held on June 29.

Rahul Bose, president of Rugby India, in a chat with this daily, spoke about the league's vision, on sport's potential growth and more. *Excerpts:*

**On RPL & its vision**

If this sport becomes one of the top five sports in a child's imagination, in creating a career, if we can get that (top-five sports), that will be a phenomenal outcome. It won't happen in a year. It will happen in a few years. We have to be prepared to also create a pathway. If the child says, 'mum, dad, I want to play rugby,' we have to provide the facilities for, 'where do I go to play rugby?' If I'm in a village or I'm in the middle of Jaipur, we have to be prepared to give them that. And what the RPL will do is create the financial reason to make rugby a (full-time) career.



**On India's prospects in Asiad & CWG 2026**

The women are ranked 10th out of 36 nations in Asia. The men are ranked 15th out of 36 nations in Asia. At the last Asian Games (in Hangzhou, 2022), only seven teams competed in the women's (category).We were seventh. In the men's (category), the government had said if you're not in the top-eight as a team sport in Asia, you will not travel for the Asian Games. In 2026 (for the women's team), we are hoping that the field will be bigger.

If it is the same field, our realistic objective would be seventh, sixth and fifth. To get to the top-two or top-three in Asia, it will take us four to five years. The federation's audacious dream is to be in the Olympics in 2032 for the women and 2036 for the men.

**On RPL's impact in the grassroots**

You are going to get a larger number of children interested in the league and the sport. To a child, (the franchise's) logo will mean hope. And that is transformational. Because till now, there is no such signage that we can give that means to a child who wants to play rugby in this country. Let us face it. It will mean, at best till now, it has meant a sport. Once you see these logos of these six teams in the future, that's what it will mean. So an increased amount of youngsters will be gravitating towards the game because of what they see on television. More than that, what's going to happen is that the internal engine of a successful league is six infrastructure and software injections into rugby in the country in those six regions.

**On building an audience through RPL**

We have learnt from the experiences of other leagues. Number one, I don't believe individual sports make for successful leagues. Because (in team sports) there is a sense of loyalty and a sense of getting behind a team's culture. There is a kind of fandom that individual (sport) does not (possess). The second box it has to tick is it the best thing you are watching on television in that sport at that time? We have the best players in the world. Third and equally important thing is that your sport has to have tremendous excitement every 30 seconds. You cannot be waiting for 90 minutes for a goalless draw. You are going to have to do it. Team sport, best in the world and incredibly exciting every 30 seconds on television.

**Full story: newindianexpress.com**

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**Aravind Sanka**
- BTech | 2012
- Co-Founder, Rapido

**Nithin George**
- PhD in Electrical Sciences | 2012
- Electrical Engineering Faculty at IIT Gandhinagar

**Lipsa Bharati**
- BTech | 2013
- Deputy Director Transform Schools, People for Action

**Amit Kumar Meena**
- BTech (Honours) | 2017
- Manger, IndianOil Corporation

## RESEARCH & INNOVATION HUB

1 The institute launched the 100-Cube Start-Up programme in February 2024, which aims to nurture as many as 100 start-ups, each with a valuation of ₹100 crore, by the 100th anniversary of Odisha in 2036. To achieve this objective, the institute is building a ₹130 crore Research and Entrepreneurship Park spanning a 17,000 m² area that can house 150 start-ups, and has initiated several measures to hone entrepreneurs' skills.

2 The institute has introduced an activity-based three-credit course titled Introduction to Research and Entrepreneurship, a minor degree programme on Innovation and Product development for BTech students, concept to commercialisation workshops, and entrepreneurship sensitisation programmes for secondary school students and parents. With these efforts over the last year, the number of start-ups has gone up from 18 to 108, most of them based in Odisha, with 11 led by faculty entrepreneurs. They are in key areas like VR/AR, Fintech, smart cities, health, clean technology and renewable energy.

3 An Artificial Intelligence and High Performance Computing Research Center (AHRC) has been established to conduct interdisciplinary research ranging from Agriculture to Medicine, Atomic Energy to Smart Cities, Aerospace to Stock Markets and Archaeology to Weather Sciences. It has begun its activities with a philanthropic donation of ₹25 crore from Rabison Foundation. The researchers have suggested ways to improve the lead time of heavy rainfall forecasts with AI based models.

4 The Design Innovation Center infuses innovation in engineers so that they can undertake projects for the development of education and community-driven products.

5 The Virtual and Augmented Reality Center of Excellence (VARCoE) aims to create a world-class AR/VR (Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality) infrastructure for interdisciplinary research focused on theoretical advancement and product development for a completely immersive experience as well as for enhancing the productivity and creativity of people.

6 S K Dash Center of Excellence of Biosciences and Engineering & Technology (SKBET), located at IIT Bhubaneswar, works on applying innovative approaches and state-of-the-art technology to understand and solve problems that are related to human gut microbiome associated disease and other such ailments.

100 CUBE START-UP CONCLAVE
PRESS CONFERENCE
IGNITING INNOVATION
Initiative to create 100 Odisha start-ups each worth ₹100 crores by 2036,
as Odisha celebrates its 100th Anniversary
1

The images on the left are from the initiative to create 100 Odisha start-ups each worth ₹100 crore by the end of the year 2036. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan was a part of the event.

### Placement trends

The career development cell at IIT Bhubaneswar, despite the challenges brought about by uncertain global economic and geo-political conditions, strived to provide the best placement opportunities to the students.

**Placements 2024-25**
Started on October 1, 2024
Will continue till July 21, 2025

**Highest package offered**
**₹45 lakh**/annum

**Average CTC offered**
**₹16.64 lakh**/annum

**413/569** registered students received job offers so far

trend setter

# REWRITING THE CAMPUS CODE AT IIT BHUBANESWAR

As a new-age IIT, this institute is building a future-ready ecosystem by blending Indian values with global research, empowering students, and driving innovation that serves both society and industry. **Saumya Solanki** finds out more

Silicon Carbide crystal growth at IIT Bhubaneswar

## STUDENTS' VOICES

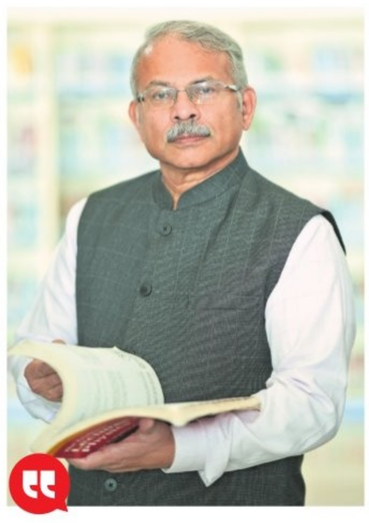
**PRAHARSHA BANDARU**
**BTech, Mechanical Engineering**
Despite initial language concerns, I've formed strong bonds through shared experiences. The vast, serene and scenic campus offers peace during stressful times. Exposure to varied traditions and cuisines has been enriching. Joining the English Literature Society helped me build soft skills.

**YUVRAJ PRATAP SINGH**
**BTech, Civil Engineering, Vice-President, Students' Gymkhana**
With its excellent infrastructure and beautiful surroundings, IIT Bhubaneswar has become my second home. The state-of-the-art Active Collaborative Learning Classrooms promote interactive peer discussions that significantly enhance the learning experience. The clean accommodation exceeds expectations.

**BUDHWANT SOMANI**
**BTech, Mechanical Engineering**
The institute provides a supportive environment with ample opportunities for growth and contribution. Hostel facilities are excellent — well-maintained with reliable Wi-Fi. I encountered no ragging. The student-led activities offer a chance to build soft skills and shape the institute's culture.

# 'Follow no one, but learn from everyone'

From reimagining classrooms as learning halls to pioneering semiconductor research and menstrual leave policies, IIT Bhubaneswar is forging a learner-centric, inclusive, and future-ready vision. Director Shreepad Karmalkar explains



*The institute recognises that overall well-being of an individual depends on oneself as well as others, and is crucial for good performance. Hence, it considers the wellness of all*
Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar

**● Which unique features sets IIT Bhubaneswar apart?**
Here are a few:
- A vast 936-acre campus — third largest among 23 IITs — nestled at the base of the historic Barunei hillock and site of the 1817 Paika Rebellion against the British
- Over 50,000 deciduous flower and fruit trees that attract migratory and exotic birds
- A 1,500 seater auditorium
- A learning hall complex with 74 classrooms of over 6,500 total seating capacity
- An administrative building crowned by a dome with mismatched halves that symbolises the administration's openness to "mismatched" or diverse perspectives.

**● IIT Bhubaneswar is gaining recognition for research-based learner-centric teaching practices, and its teacher education programmes. Tell us more about this.**
Research has shown that lecture is not the best mode of imparting learning. Hence, we call our classrooms as Learning Halls rather than Lecture Halls. We conduct regular workshops for our faculty on active and collaborative teaching-learning practices.

Each of our faculty member prepares a teaching portfolio for every course they teach which documents key features of the teaching activity, just like a research paper documents a research activity. The faculty is required to produce it as evidence for career advancement.

**● In which ways is the IIT working to strengthen industry partnerships and improve student employability?**
IIT Bhubaneswar has signed several MoUs; launched joint courses, projects, and research labs with industry; and instituted industrial chair and professor of practice positions.

Its Career Development Cell organises industry-academia sessions. Soft skills and interview preparation sessions are also organised.

**● Talk about the IIT's efforts in the field of semiconductors, renewable energy and green hydrogen.**
We, in collaboration with SiCSem, have set up a Silicon Carbide Research and Innovation Center. To begin with, high volume production of 200 mm dia SiC wafers used for fabricating power devices is being indigenised at the cost of ₹45 crore.
The institute also has a semiconductor characterisation laboratory. It offers MTech and Diploma programmes in Semiconductor and Chip Design, the latter in partnership with MOSart Labs.
Two faculty members launched a start-up called Nano Semic which makes sensors based on nanomaterials and nanoelectronics.

A consortium of institutions led by IIT Bhubaneswar is establishing Odisha Hydrogen Valley Foundation to generate green hydrogen at an economical price and scale.

**Where do you see India in 2050 and what role do you see IIT Bhubaneswar playing towards the same vision?**
By 2050, I envision that India will be closer to achieving a Viswaguru status in education, research and innovation, and IIT Bhubaneswar will be a vital contributor to this vision — producing leaders, innovators, and changemakers.

IIT Bhubaneswar supplements academics with activities, events, sports, music, fests and more — thus, offering a wholesome learning experience

# Iconic events and traditions

**GENERAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

1 IIT Bhubaneswar's Students' Gymkhana organises several student-led events. General Championship is an annual inter-departmental tournament where students strive to uphold their department's pride. Tournaments are held under three different councils, namely: Technical, Cultural and Sports. Each event sees a winner, and points are awarded according to the standings, thus creating an overall points tally.

**PRAVAAH**

2 In earlier years, there were three fests: Alma Fiesta, a socio-cultural festival celebrating Indian diversity through dance, music, drama, fine arts, workshops, and competitions; Wissenaire, a techno-management festival featuring programming, robotics, and other technical contests; and E-SUMMIT, an entrepreneurship summit. This year onwards, the institute merged these three fests into one grand four-day flagship cultural and technopreneurship fest called Pravaah. On another note, they also have the Souls for Solace social welfare society and blood donation camps.

## WHAT'S FUN ON CAMPUS

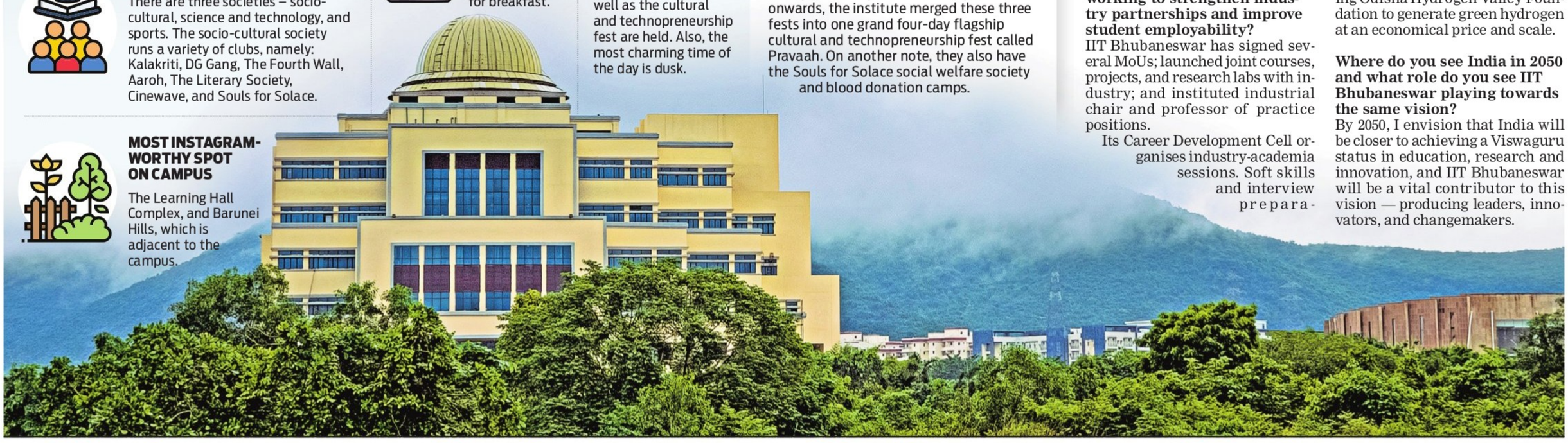
**BEST SPOT TO HANG OUT FOR STUDENTS ON CAMPUS**
Raju Canteen, in front of LBC, is the destination for wandering souls on campus, particularly in the evening.

**MOST COMPETITIVE CLUB OR SOCIETY**
There are three societies – socio-cultural, science and technology, and sports. The socio-cultural society runs a variety of clubs, namely: Kalakriti, DG Gang, The Fourth Wall, Aaroh, The Literary Society, Cinewave, and Souls for Solace.

**MOST INSTAGRAM-WORTHY SPOT ON CAMPUS**
The Learning Hall Complex, and Barunei Hills, which is adjacent to the campus.

**BEST DISH IN THE CANTEEN**
Medu vada, which is served for breakfast.

**BEST TIME TO BE ON CAMPUS**
February to April, when many competitions as well as the cultural and technopreneurship fest are held. Also, the most charming time of the day is dusk.



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

# Bengaluru Express

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MONDAY

**DAY'S DIARY**

## *Second PM*

Following Nehru's death, Lal Bahadur Shastri, on this day in 1964, was sworn in as the second Prime Minister of India

**SETTLES AN AGITATION**

A year after becoming PM, Shashtri solved the anti-Hindi agitation in Madras by deciding to continue English as an official language of the country

**INDO-PAK WAR**

He led the country during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1965. His slogan of "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" became very popular during the war

**DEATH**

Lal Bahadur Shastri died in Tashkent on January 11, 1966, at the age of 61, soon after signing the Tashkent Pact with Pakistan.

*A curated guide of events in Bengaluru*

PG 2

# SASHAYING TO THE TOP

Mrs. India Globe 2017, Veena Jain's protegee, Sharada Narayanan, a city-based fashion entrepreneur, is set to compete in Mrs. Globe Classique pageant this year

VASUDHA SHARMA

IN the sunny upscale suburb of Palm Springs, California, women from 50 countries around the world gather with the hope of winning the prestigious Mrs. Globe Classique pageant, for women over 45. For over seven years, former beauty queen, Mrs. India Globe 2017, Veena Jain, as the national director of the pageant, has mentored Indian women, preparing them to compete at this international stage. "Mrs. Globe is the top international beauty pageant in the 'Mrs.' category," says Jain, who trains participants through all three rounds – national costume, coronation gown, and the swimsuit round, adding that Indian women bring a blend of emotional intelligence, cultural representation, and confidence that is needed in the presentation. "Our representatives are confident, communicative, and emotionally intelligent. These aren't skills we need to teach; they are embedded in our culture," she explains, saying, "We look for someone who is poised, confident, social, and inspiring."

This year, Jain has taken Sharada Narayanan, a city-based fashion entrepreneur, under her wing, describing her as 'the full package, with a strong presence and natural charm.' Narayanan defines herself as a fashion designer, entrepreneur, social changemaker, mother, and spouse. Her journey to the Mrs. Globe stage wasn't easy; it began in the corporate world but an inner pull towards creativity led her to fashion design. "Colours, fabrics, these fascinated me from a very young age," says Narayanan, adding that her first time walking the ramp in her own design made her realise she had a side she hadn't explored yet, leading her to open her boutique, METAmorphosis.

Apart from being a fashionista, Narayanan has founded her own NGO Virya Trust which empowers women by teaching them tailoring skills, marketing housing products, and hosting bazaars. She resonated with the pageant's mission which is similar in spirit, leading her to compete. "This is not just a beauty pageant. It is a platform that honours purpose and resilience. The WIN Foundation's mission to support women in need resonated with my journey," says Narayanan. For both Jain and Narayanan, Mrs. Globe represents transformation and knowing your potential. "Every woman dreams of being a beauty queen with a crown and a sash," reflects Jain. "But it's not an easy journey; you just have to want it, pursue it, and follow your dream."

Getting oneself physically and mentally ready for a pageant is no easy feat, and for Narayanan, the months of preparation have been intense yet rewarding. "Fitness has always been a part of my life, but I've become even more mindful. Yoga, clean eating, and self-care, these aren't just about looking good but feeling grounded and confident." She speaks candidly about the struggles behind the scenes in learning to walk the ramp, mastering posture, and balancing her business, NGO, and family life. "This journey has brought in a lot of focus and structure," she admits, adding, "At this stage in life, aches are real. But I don't let them stop me. If there's a challenge, there's always a solution."

> *Mrs. Globe is the top international beauty pageant in the 'Mrs.' category. Our representatives are confident, communicative, and emotionally intelligent. These aren't skills we need to teach; they are embedded in our culture*
>
> Veena Jain, Mrs. India Globe 2017

**XPRESS FOCUS**

## C. Krishniah Chetty Group Revolutionises Indian Weddings with the 'Magnificent Wedding' Offer

In an era where Indian weddings are synonymous with grandeur, opulence, and lavish expenditure, the C. Krishniah Chetty Group of Jewellers (CKC) has revolutionised the wedding industry with a bold, game-changing initiative—the Magnificent Wedding offer. This unique package, which brings together the best of jewellery and wedding planning under one roof, offers an all-inclusive experience at a price point once thought unattainable. At the heart of this pioneering concept is Chaitanya V. Cotha, Executive Director of C. Krishniah Chetty, whose vision has transformed a traditionally lavish affair into something accessible yet uncompromising in quality.

### The Genesis of the Magnificent Wedding

According to Cotha, the inspiration behind the creation of the Magnificent Wedding offer was the evolving landscape of India's youth culture. "I have always believed in being closely connected with our customers. Over time, I observed a significant shift: India's youth are not just the future—they are the present, with an appetite for personalisation and independence in their wedding choices. The trend is clear: more and more young couples are purchasing jewellery for engagements or weddings on their own, without involving extended family in the initial decision-making process," Cotha said.

He elaborates that while these couples often aspire to a grand wedding, the reality is that not everyone can afford an extravagant celebration. The idea for Magnificent Wedding was born out of this very dilemma. "We wanted to create an offering that would allow young couples to experience the magnificence of a royal wedding without breaking the bank. By combining high-quality jewellery and premium wedding experiences, we've found a way to make luxury accessible at just Rs 15 lakhs, of which Rs 7 lakhs is for jewellery and Rs 8 lakhs is for the wedding at Palace Grounds."

### A Legacy of Excellence

The Magnificent Wedding offer aligns seamlessly with CKC's rich legacy, which has always been built on the pillars of craftsmanship, trust, and opulence. For C. Krishniah Chetty, quality is never negotiable. "Our ethos at C. Krishniah Chetty is rooted in perfection—whether it's the jewellery or the experience. We didn't just select any partners; we meticulously researched and vetted every vendor to ensure that they could uphold the same exacting standards we've set over decades."

One of the key elements of the package is its partnership with the Palace Grounds—a venue that exudes exclusivity and elegance, yet remains accessible to those who would typically find such venues cost-prohibitive. "Palace Grounds is a prestigious location in Bengaluru, and we've handpicked it because of its long-standing reputation for hosting impeccable weddings. This collaboration allows us to offer an all-encompassing experience that includes jewellery, venue, lighting, photography, videography, catering, and even a mocktail bar—all at one extraordinary price."

### A Comprehensive Approach to Luxury

The Magnificent Wedding offer doesn't just include jewellery; it redefines the entire wedding experience. "This is not just about rings and necklaces," Cotha elaborates. "It's a full-spectrum offering. From the stage and décor to the entertainment and the food, we've ensured that every detail is taken care of. It's an end-to-end experience."

**Magnificent Weddings**
**At Just Rs. 15 Lakhs**
Buy jewellery worth a minimum of **Rs 7 Lakhs** + Wedding at Palace Grounds for **Rs 8 Lakhs**
**with 16 exclusive offerings**

The level of coordination involved in bringing together such a multifaceted package was no small feat. Cotha revealed that it took the C. Krishniah Chetty team nearly eight months of meticulous planning and coordination.

Chaitanya V. Cotha, Executive Director of C. Krishniah Chetty

### Future of Weddings

As India's young couples continue to reshape the fabric of society, Cotha believes the Magnificent Wedding offer is part of a larger trend that's set to redefine the future of the wedding industry. "What we're doing is opening up a whole new avenue for couples. This is just the beginning. We're already in discussions with travel agencies for honeymoon packages and clothing brands to offer a complete wedding experience—one that covers every aspect, from jewellery to the last detail of the honeymoon."

He is particularly excited about the opportunity to further engage with younger customers, explaining how the concept is resonating with the millennial and Gen-Z couples who desire a seamless, all-inclusive experience. "We've already signed on over 100 couples in the first few weeks, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive."

### Early Success and Future Prospects

The initial response has been nothing short of astonishing. "In just the first weekend, we had over 100 couples express interest in the offer. This has far exceeded our expectations, especially since we're still in the early stages of launching this initiative," Cotha shared. "Currently, around 20% of those who inquired have visited our store to purchase jewellery, and we're already seeing confirmed bookings for weddings in June and August."

The success so far, Cotha notes, reflects a broader shift in customer expectations. "Today's consumer is savvy—they don't just want products; they want experiences. And they want those experiences to be seamless, tailored to their needs, and most importantly, accessible."

**For details, go to their website: https://www.weddingsbyckcjewellers.com**

**Engineering Programmes at REVA**

## Shaping Future Engineers: The REVA Student Edge

Walk tthrough REVA University's vibrant Bengaluru campus, and you'll meet future-ready minds preparing not just for jobs, but to lead and innovate. From designing smart cities to solving tomorrow's challenges, REVA's engineering students reflect a spirit of collaboration, creativity, and constant evolution.

At the core is the Faculty of Engineering—an empowering ecosystem that fuels big dreams and bold action. What began in 2003 as REVA Group of Institutions became a full-fledged university by 2012. Today, REVA is a premier hub for technology-driven education, attracting thousands of aspiring engineers annually.

Under the visionary leadership of Chancellor Dr. P. Shyama Raju, REVA nurtures holistic learning and shapes engineers for leadership, innovation, and global impact.

What sets REVA's engineering programs apart is their real-world focus. The curriculum blends academic rigour with innovation, agility, and relevance. Classrooms simulate workplaces, labs mirror industry settings, and projects are developed with corporate partners—ensuring REVA graduates are career-ready, industry-savvy, and highly employable from day one.

Engineering at REVA is offered through its multiple schools—Civil, Computing & Information Technology, Computer Science and Engineering, Mechanical, Electronics & Communication, and Electrical & Electronics—at undergraduate, postgraduate, and research levels. These schools provide integrated, specialised learning environments that blend academic knowledge with hands-on technical training. Additionally, diplomas, minor degrees, honours degrees and certificate programmes open up pathways for upskilling and continuous learning.

In addition to its established B.Tech. programmes in Electronics and Communication, Electrical and Electronics, and Civil Engineering, REVA now offers cutting-edge engineering specialisations in Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, AI & Data Science, IoT & Cybersecurity with Blockchain Technology, Robotics & Automation, Aerospace Engineering, Mechatronics, and Agricultural Engineering. Our specialised B. Tech in Agricultural Engineering is a unique fusion of engineering principles and agricultural sciences, offering students an interdisciplinary education that goes beyond traditional boundaries. These programmes are designed to address the growing need for engineers who are not only technically sound but also deeply aware of global technological transformations.

REVA's state-of-the-art infrastructure is another pillar of its engineering excellence. Its labs and centres of excellence are equipped with the latest tools and software, allowing students to work on simulations, prototypes, and real-time systems. This hands-on approach enables learners to transition smoothly from classroom theories to industry applications.

Another defining feature of REVA's Faculty of Engineering is its commitment to research. With an encouraging environment and mentorship from experienced faculty, students are motivated to explore Ph.D. programmes and engage in meaningful research that addresses industry, societal, and global challenges. The emphasis on research-driven education makes REVA a hub for aspiring scholars and innovators.

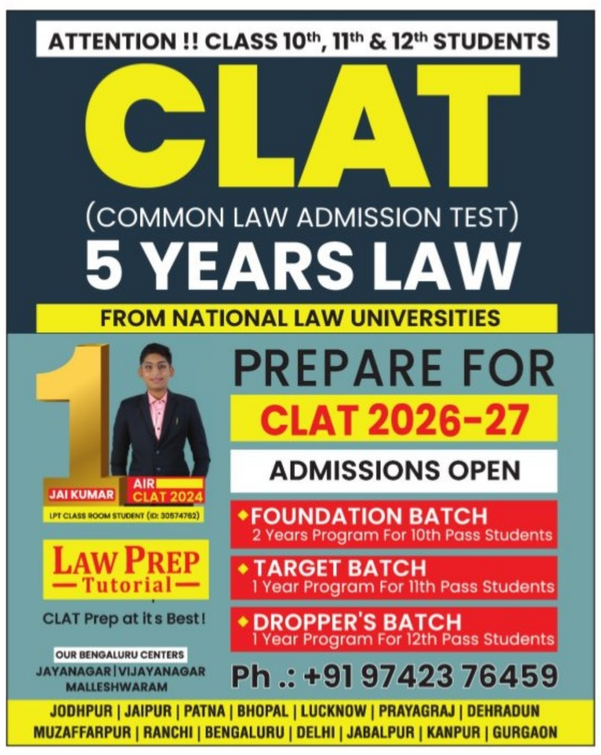
The impact of REVA's engineering education is evident in its placement success. With over 350 recruitment partners, including top multinational corporations, REVA students secure high-paying job offers and internships. Many also choose the path of entrepreneurship, supported by REVA NEST—its dedicated Technology Business Incubator.

At REVA University, engineering isn't just about machines and codes—it's about people, purpose, and progress. For students looking to be part of something meaningful and future-focused, the various schools of engineering offer more than just education—they offer transformation. From the first day on campus to the first step into the professional world, REVA students are equipped not just to survive, but to thrive.

**CITY READ**

### Preschool hosts activities for World Environment Day

Janavi Preschool, Rajajinagar, celebrated World Environment Day on June 5 by conducting activities for young children to learn about environmental care through hands-on participation. With a focus on building early awareness, the preschool organised sapling planting, nature walks, recycling tasks, and storytelling sessions related to the earth. Themed 'Nurturing Young Minds with Innovative Information,' the event aimed to connect children with nature through direct experience. "Children are naturally curious, and this is the right age to help them build a strong bond with nature," said Shilpa K, founder and director of the school at the event.


ATTENTION !! CLASS 10th, 11th & 12th STUDENTS
CLAT
(COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST)
5 YEARS LAW
FROM NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITIES
JAI KUMAR
AIR CLAT 2024
LPT CLASS ROOM STUDENT (ID: 30574782)
PREPARE FOR
CLAT 2026-27
ADMISSIONS OPEN
FOUNDATION BATCH
2 Years Program For 10th Pass Students
TARGET BATCH
1 Year Program For 11th Pass Students
DROPPER'S BATCH
1 Year Program For 12th Pass Students
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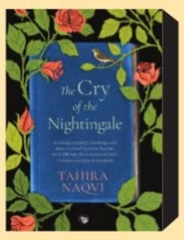
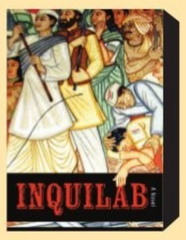
MUZAFFARPUR | RANCHI | BENGALURU | DELHI | JABALPUR | KANPUR | GURGAON

## BOOK NOOK



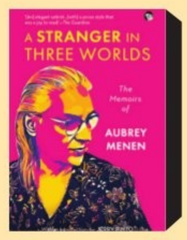

### The Cry of the Nightingale
**by Tahira Naqvi**

A hard-hitting expression of women's liberation and equal rights – set in Pakistan during and post the Zia-ul-Haq regime. Poignantly written by Tahira Naqvi.



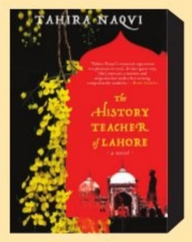

### Inquilab: A Novel
**By Khwaja Ahmad Abbas**

An autobiographical historical novel on India's independence struggle by the acclaimed filmmaker, journalist, and writer. This gripping read, features a foreword by Syeda Hameed.




### A Stranger in Three Worlds
**By Aubrey Menen**

Born in England to an Irish mother and an Indian father, Aubrey Menen's memoir navigates the contradictions of identity, nationality, and belonging with his trademark irony and insight in his two classic autobiographical books. It has an introduction by Jerry Pinto.




### The History Teacher of Lahore: A Novel
**by Tahira Naqvi**

Tahira Naqvi's exquisite novel set in Lahore returns in a paperback edition. In this book, she recreates the Lahore of the 1980s, showing eloquently the struggle between a besieged democracy on one hand and thriving cultural traditions of Urdu poetry on the other.

## A GASPING SIGHT

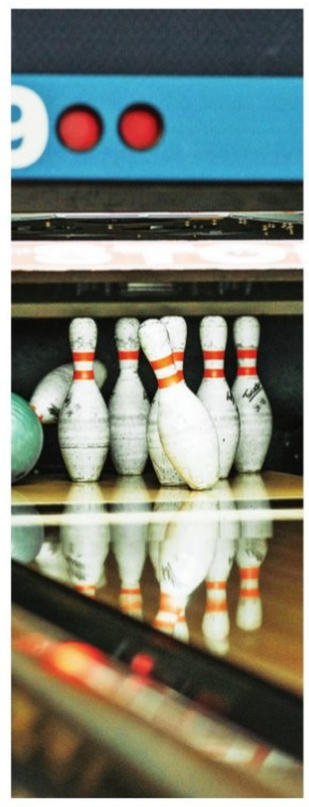
Visitors explore modern sculptures at 'We Don't End at Our Edges', an exhibition showcasing artist Ravikumar Kashi's works at Museum of Art & Photography, Kasturba Road | **ALLEN EGENUSE J**

## WHATWHENWHYWHERE

### Spin & Splash

Step into a world of rides, slides, and non-stop motion across land and water. From loops and drops to calm flows and spins, thrill meets ease at every turn for kids and adults who love adventure

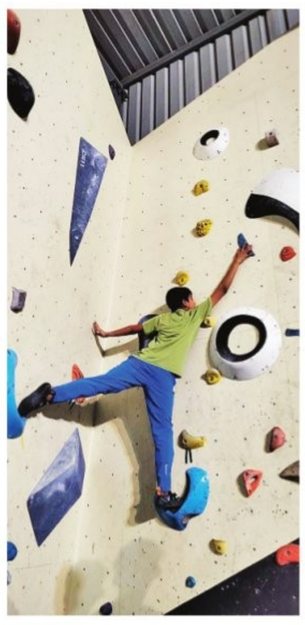
**WHEN:** June 9, 11am onwards
**WHERE:** Wonderla Amusement Park, Mysore Road
**DETAILS:** district.in



### Time to Play!

Get your competitive spirit on and compete against your friends and family at a range of arcade games. Whether it is VR or bowling, there's something for every age group to enjoy.

**WHEN:** June 9, 11am onwards
**WHERE:** Timezone, Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield
**DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com



### Climb Together

Climb bouldering walls, learn from instructors, and meet others who share the love of climbing at this indoor climbing space built for all skill levels.

**WHEN:** June 9, 11pm
**WHERE:** Elevate:The Climbing Company, Begur
**CALL:** 97413 87878

### Raga Retreat

Looking to begin or return to Hindustani classical music? Explore weekly vocal classes led by Simran Sewani, a trained vocalist and teacher rooted in traditional practice with a structured and accessible approach to teaching. Whether you're a beginner or looking to deepen your practice, these sessions offer a consistent space to learn and explore classical music.

**WHEN:** June 10, 5pm
**WHERE:** Atta Galatta, Indiranagar
**CALL:** 96325 10126

### Poetry Night

Immerse yourself in heartfelt words in verse as local poet, Kanika, performs her work.

**WHEN:** June 10, 7.30pm
**WHERE:** Urban Solace - Cafe for Soul, Ulsoor
**CALL:** 98450 13055

### Festive Flavours

Mark the occasion of Eid al-Adha with a dinner experience inspired by the rich culinary legacy of the Mughals. Guests can enjoy a specially curated menu featuring classics like qormas, qaliyans, salans, and more, crafted to be shared with loved ones. The buffet is priced at ₹1,800++ per person.

**WHEN:** June 10, 7.30pm
**WHERE:** WelcomCafe Jacaranda, Richmond Road
**CALL:** 98412 09608

## QUICKFIX

## MASALA BREAD UPMA

### INGREDIENTS

- **Bread:** 4 slices
- **Oil/ghee:** 1 tsp
- **Mustard seeds:** 1/2 tsp
- **Green chilli, small onion:** 1 each
- **Turmeric powder:** 1/4 tsp
- **Salt, curry leaves, coriander leaves, lemon juice**

### METHOD

- Heat oil in a pan. Add mustard seeds and let them splutter.
- Add chopped green chilli, curry leaves, and onion. Saute till the onion turns soft.
- Add turmeric powder and salt. Mix well.
- Add bread cubes and toss everything together for 2-3 minutes until the bread is lightly toasted and coated with the masala.
- Turn off the heat. Garnish with coriander leaves and a squeeze of lemon juice.

Contributed by **Parvathy,** Thiruvananthapuram

**EXPRESS CONNECT**

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

## ART CORNER

## LADYHOOD

'A Summer Afternoon' by Jayeeta Chatterjee is a 2023 woodcut print with Nakshi Kantha stitch on saris. It depicts the artist's mother, grandmother, and aunt enjoying a summer afternoon with kulfi

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, ESHWARACHARI M P is Father of No 8036014H Rank HAV Name DAYANANDA ME residing at No 117-2 Jandammana. Badavane, Vil & PO Javagal, distt: Hassan, Karnataka-573125 and currently residing at Jai Jawan Nagar Subbanayapallya Banashwadi Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name from **ESHWARACHARI to ESHWARACHARI M P** vide Affidavit dated 06.06.2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary Udayakumar .K, Bangalore.

# THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

**PUBLIC NOTICE**
CHANGE OF NAME

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RONALD JICKSON VADAKKALA VARHESE JOSEPH**, Son of Joseph Vadakkala Varghese, aged 35 years, Residing at No.98, Concord Layout, Harohalli, Huskur Post, Bangalore-560099, Karnataka, have changed my name to **RONALD JICKSON** vide Affidavit dated 06.06.2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary N. Kanchivaradaraju, Bangalore.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MOHAMED IBRAHIM**, aged 58 years, S/o. **Abdul Rahim,** residing of No. 52, 1st Floor, 3rd Cross, JJR Nagar, Rayapuram, Bengaluru-560018, have changed my name from **MOHAMED IBRAHIM ABDUL RAHIM** to **MOHAMED IBRAHIM** vide affidavit dated 05-06-2025 sworn before Notary **DEEPA M.** BENGALURU.

### AFFIDAVIT

I, **GUNDAPANENI VENKATESHWARLU,** aged about 59 Years, S/o Sri. Narasaiah R/at No.1301, 7th Cross,3rd Main, D Block, AECS Layout, Kundalahalli, Marathahalli Colony, Banglaore-560037 has been recognized by Three names i.e **GUNDAPANENI VENKATESHWARLU** and **G.N.VENKATESH** and **G.N.VENKATESHWARLU,** vide affidavit dated.07/06/2025, sworn before the Notary of **Mr. UDAY KUMAR.K,** Bangalore.

### AFFIDAVIT

I, **KAMAKSHAMMA VENKATESHWARLU**, aged about 52 Years, W/o Sri. G.N. Venkateshwarlu R/at No.1301, 7th Cross, 3rd Main, D Block, AECS Layout, Kundalahalli, Marathahalli Colony, Banglaore-560037 has been recognized by three names i.e **KAMAKSHAMMA M** and **KAMAKSHAMMA VENKATESHWARLU** and also **KAMAKSHI,** vide affidavit dated.07/06/2025, sworn before the Notary of **Mr. UDAY KUMAR.K,** Bangalore.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, 15325095F. Rank - HAV **N. SHIVA KUMAR,** Aged 44 years, S/o. Narasimha, residing at No. 3, E-Street, Gopalapura, 1st Cross Right Side, Gopalapura Magadi Road, Dist. Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560023, I declare that in my army records my wife's name has been recorded as **BA Sowbhagya** and her date of birth is recorded as 25/11/1982 instead of her correct name **B.A. Sowbhagya** and correct date of birth 25/11/1984., vide affidavit dated 6/6/2025 sworn to before M.Narendran Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

### AFFIDAVIT

I, **S. HARSHITH GOWDA,** S/o. Late Suresh .V, aged about 22 years, residing at No. 36, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Ashwathnagar, Adjacent to Telecom Layout, Sunkadakatte, Bengaluru-560091, do hereby declare that names i.e., **S.HARSHITH GOWDA** and **AJITH.S** are one and the same and both names refers to me, vide affidavit dated 04.06.2025, sworn to before Sumithra .N, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, **C.R. VEERAKYATHARAYA** S/o Sri. Rangappa, Aged about 42 years, R/at No.31/1, 4th Main Road, 4th Cross, Agrahara Dasarahalli, Bengaluru - 560079, have changed my Son's name from **C.V. RANGANATHA** (Old Name) to **C.V. CHIRANTH** (New name) for all future purposes, vide Affidavit dated 02-04-2025, Sworn before Notary P.M. Nagaraj, Bengaluru.

### CHANGE OF NAME

We, Smt. **ANUSUYAMMA B K**, W/o. **E NAGARAJA**, aged about 41 years and Sri. **E NAGARAJA**, S/o. **ERAPPA**, aged about 45 years, residing at Near Gangamma Temple, Bangavadi Village, Hebbani Post, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka 563136 we have changed our son's name from **RANJITH N. to RANJITH REDDY N.** vide Affidavit dated 29.05.2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary Sumithra .N, Bangalore.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHANTHAMMA**, aged 65 years, W/o. **Gangaiah L.G.** residing of No. 457, 16th Cross, BEML Layout, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru-560079, have changed my name from **SHANTHAMMA CHIKKALINGAIAH** to **SHANTHAMMA** vide affidavit dated 07-06-2025 sworn before Notary **DEEPA M.** BENGALURU.

### AFFIDAVIT

I, **RASHMI GUNDAPANENI**, aged about 30 Years, D/o Sri. Venkateshwarlu G.N, R/at No.1301, 7th Cross,3rd Main, D Block, AECS Layout, Kundalahalli, Marathahalli Colony, Banglaore-560037 has been recognized by Two names i.e **RASHMI GUNDAPANENI** and **RASHMI G.N.** vide affidavit dated.07/06/2025, sworn before the Notary of **Mr. UDAY KUMAR.K,** Bangalore.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Aditya Amitkumar Chikkodi** Aged about 21 years, S/o Amitkumar Chandrashekar Chikkodi and resident of #71, Gangothri, 1st Cross, Mahadeshwaranagara, Maruthinagara, Herohalli, Bangalore - 560091, have changed my name from **Aditya Amit Chikkodi** to **Aditya Amitkumar Chikkodi,** vide affidavit dated 7/6/2025 sworn to before N.Sandhya Advocate and Notary Bangalore

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RAJESHWARI BHANDARKAR R** D/O Radhakrishana Bhandarkar P, aged about 40 years, resident of No. 27, 2nd Cross, SVG Nagar, Opp BSNL Telephone Exchange, Moodala Palya, Nagarabhavi Post, Bengaluru - 560091, have changed my name from **B. RAJESHWARI BHAKTHA** to **RAJESHWARI BHANDARKAR R,** vide affidavit dated 31/5/2025 sworn to before Chandrakala Advocate and Notary Bangalore

### AFFIDAVIT

I, **S. ABHISHEK GOWDA,** S/o. Late Suresh .V, aged about 20 years, residing at No. 36, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Ashwathnagar, Adjacent to Telecom Layout, Sunkadakatte, Bengaluru-560091, do hereby declare that names i.e. **S. ABHISHEK GOWDA** and **LOHITH GOWDA .B.S** are one and the same and both names refers to me, vide affidavit dated 04.06.2025, sworn to before Sumithra .N, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, **BELLE SHARVANI PRAVEEN KUMAR** W/o **Mallinath Uppin**, aged about 35 years, [Aadhar No: 275062080184] Residing at Flat No:F-539, Deodar Block, Brigade Orchards, Devanahalli Town, Bangalore Rural District-562110, have changed my daughter's name from **AARUHI RAO to AARUHI BELLE UPPIN** vide Affidavit dated 07.06.2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary S.P. Gandhi, Bangalore.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, **GAYITHRI N M** is Mother of No 8036014H Rank HAV Name DAYANANDA ME residing at No 117-2 Jandammana. Badavane, Vil & PO Javagal, distt: Hassan, Karnataka-573125 and currently residing at Jai Jawan Nagar Subbanayapallya Banashwadi Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name from **GAYATRIAMMA to GAYITHRI N M** vide Affidavit dated 06.06.2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary Udayakumar .K, Bangalore.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHRISAIL** R/at No.63/1A. 12 Ganapati Nagar Chikkabanavara, Acharya College Main Road, Bengaluru- 560090 have changed my name to **SHRISAIL. A** vide affidavit dated: 4/6/2025 Before Notary **M.K.Devaki** Bangalore.

### AFFIDAVIT

I, **GUNDAPANENI NAVYA,** aged about 28 Years, D/o Sri. Venkateshwarlu G.N R/at No.1301, 7th Cross,3rd Main, D Block, AECS Layout, Kundalahalli, Marathahalli Colony, Banglaore-560037 has been recognized by two names i.e **GUNDAPANENI NAVYA** and **NAVYA G.N,** vide affidavit dated. 07/06/2025, sworn before the Notary of **Mr. UDAY KUMAR.K** Bangalore.

### CHANGE OF NAME

**We Sri. YALLAPPA KUNDARAJI,** aged about 49 years, S/o Late, Rangappa and Smt. Shreedevi Satpati, aged about 39 years, W/o Yallappa Kundaraji, both are Residing at No. 91 and 92, 3rd Cross, Near BNR School Main Gate, Shati Layout, VTC: Ramamurthynagar, PO: Doorvaninagar, Bangalore District Pin Code : 560016, We declare that our son name is **Samrudh Kundaragi** his School records Father name and Mother names wrongly mentioned as **YALLAPPA R.K** instead of **YALLAPPA KUNDARAJI** and **SHREEDEVI G.S** instead of **SHREEDEVI SATAPATI,** vide affidavit dated 6/6/2025 sworn to before Ravikumar.V Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

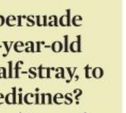
### CHANGE OF NAME

We, **Sri VINAY KUMAR R**, aged about 31 years, and **Smt. MANASA H K,** aged about 31 years, both residing at No. 503, 1st 'A' Cross, Road, Ideal Homes Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru-560098, do hereby declare we have changed our son's name from **MANVITH V GOWDA** to **NARTHAN V GOWDA,** vide affidavit dated 27.05.2025, sworn to before S.R. Thulasikrishna, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, **JULIE ALANGARAM HENRY,** D/o. A. Alangaram, W/o Henry Prabhu Nathan, aged about 44 years, R/at No.8, Prabhu Enclave, 3rd Floor, CSI Compound, 2nd Cross, Mission Road, Bangalore-560 007, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **'JULIE ALANGARAM'** to **"JULIE ALANGARAM HENRY"** vide affidavit dated 03.06.2025,Sworn before Advocate and Notary S. Jayanth, Bengaluru.

For SMART ADS & THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS
Contact : Mr Ravi Kumar
9886550650
080-22866893



**DR VIVEK ARORA**

*The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.*

**How can I persuade my dog, a 7-year-old indie and half-stray, to take her medicines? We have tried to make her lick from a spoon and dilute it in water-melon juice which she likes, but she finds out and won't touch it.**

**ASK AN XPERT**

To encourage your dog to take her medicine, try concealing it in strong-smelling, tasty treats like cheese, boiled chicken, or liver paste. Use only small amounts so the medicine is harder to detect. For pills, consider using pill pockets or wrapping them in soft food she enjoys. Stay calm and patient – dogs are sensitive to your emotions. Avoid forcing her, as it can increase anxiety. If she's cautious, start with a few plain treats, then slip in the medicated one during the treat session. With gentle persistence and positive reinforcement, she may begin to accept her medicine more easily.

# The Saplings We Sow, The Future We Owe

On 6th June, saplings changed hands not as mere tokens, but as solemn pledges. At The New Indian Express office, World Environment Day was marked not with ceremonial fanfare but with an act of ecological faith—a quiet, green rebellion against the renunciatory neglect of modern urban life.

What use is a dazzling skyline when the ground beneath it suffocates? What is a smart city when its air poisons its people and its water, once pristine, now carries chemical whispers? These were not questions shouted aloud, but they hung in the air nonetheless, as the sapling distribution campaign took root—a call to reimagine the very notion of growth.

The initiative was inaugurated by Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B. Khandre, whose words cut through the corporate haze. Bengaluru, once adorned with shimmering lakes and shaded by canopies of green, now wears the drab garb of over-urbanisation. More than 200 lakes have vanished under the sprawl of asphalt. The city now generates 6,000 tons of waste a day—twice as much as in 2011. "We are not owners here," Khandre remarked with stern conviction, "We are merely tenants. And by every ecological measure, we've been bad ones."

This was no ordinary event—it was a meditation on our planetary citizenship, or the lack thereof. The minister also announced a bold policy: a new law mandating manufacturers and sellers of plastic bottles to buy them back for recycling. "It's not just about plastic. It's about responsibility," he said.

Dr Vijayabhaskaran, executive director of Kauvery Hospitals, brought a clinical perspective to the ecological emergency. In the span of a generation, water consumption in Bengaluru has nearly doubled, while the city's green cover has plummeted from 60% in the 1980s to a startling 3% today. "In developed countries," he noted, "you cannot build without first planting and purifying. Why can't we mirror that unicity of thought here?" His was not a nostalgic lament—it was a prescriptive appeal, wrapped in data and driven by hope.

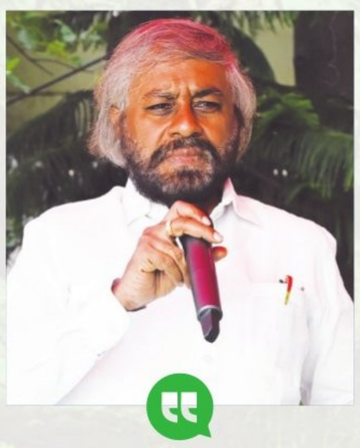
There is a growing imbalance in the city—one tree now serves over 15 people, a ratio that tears at the seams of sustainability. "This isn't just about aesthetics. These trees are not decorative—they are life support," Khandre emphasised. The saplings handed over to BBMP marshals and Karnataka Forest Department staff were more than green shoots; they were metaphors for resilience, reclamation, and rebirth.

The event was a convergence of stakeholders—journalists, health professionals, bureaucrats—each driven by a shared inquietude over the planet's declining hospitality.

To rephrase a forgotten wisdom: the Earth is so kind, she laughs when you tickle her with a hoe. And yet, we've forgotten to laugh with her, to plant, to preserve, to live as guests and not landlords. The day reminded us that change isn't an abstraction—it begins with saplings, with laws, with responsibility. Most of all, it begins with us.

In the end, Dr Vijayabhaskaran left the audience with a poignant reflection: "We have not inherited the earth from our ancestors—we are borrowing it from our children." That borrowed time is running out. But perhaps, with every sapling tucked into the soil that morning, we borrowed just a little hope back.

Nirad G Mudur, Deputy Resident Editor, TNIE; Dr Vijayabhaskaran, Executive Director of Kauvery Hospitals; Eshwar B Khandre, Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister; and P Suresh, Senior General Manager-Karnataka & Head Marketing-Telangana | ALLEN EGENUSE J

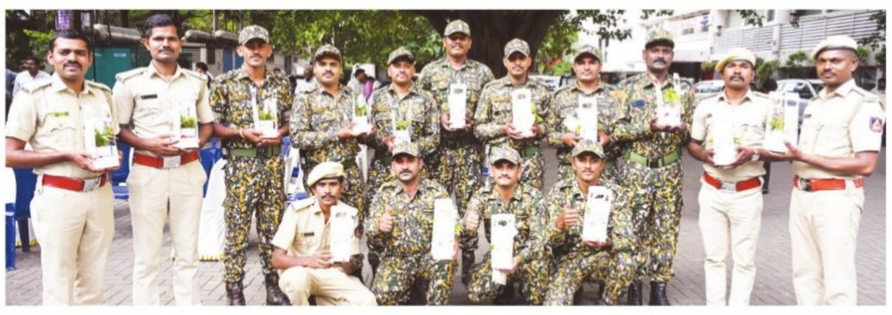


**Let us take a resolute pledge to eliminate plastic from our lives in every form—not as a symbolic gesture, but as a conscious lifestyle shift. We must recognise that plastic is not merely a convenience; it is a slow, silent destroyer of ecosystems and future generations. Awareness is the first step toward change, but action must follow. As responsible citizens, it is our duty not only to understand the long-term harm plastic causes to our environment, but to educate others with empathy and urgency. True change begins when knowledge is shared and practiced collectively, every single day.**

- Eshwar B. Khandre, Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister, GoK

**Bengaluru once had 60% green cover in its urban core—today, it's less than 3%. In just a decade, our daily waste has doubled to 6,000 tons, and water consumption has surged beyond sustainable limits. Rapid urbanisation may be inevitable, but environmental collapse is not. Countries abroad mandate tree planting and water treatment before construction begins—why can't we? If each citizen insists on greener habits, plants a tree, and stops polluting, we can reclaim our city's lost glory. After all, we haven't inherited this earth—we're borrowing it from our children. Let's return it habitable, not harmed.**

- Dr Vijayabhaskaran, Executive Director, Kauvery Hospitals



Bengaluru's newly appointed Police Commissioner, Seemanth Kumar Singh IPS receives a sapling

Forest, Ecology & Environment Minister Eshwar B. Khandre and Kauvery Hospitals Executive Director Dr. Vijayabhaskaran distribute saplings to BBMP marshals, foresters and guests during a World Environment Day event organised by The New Indian Express.

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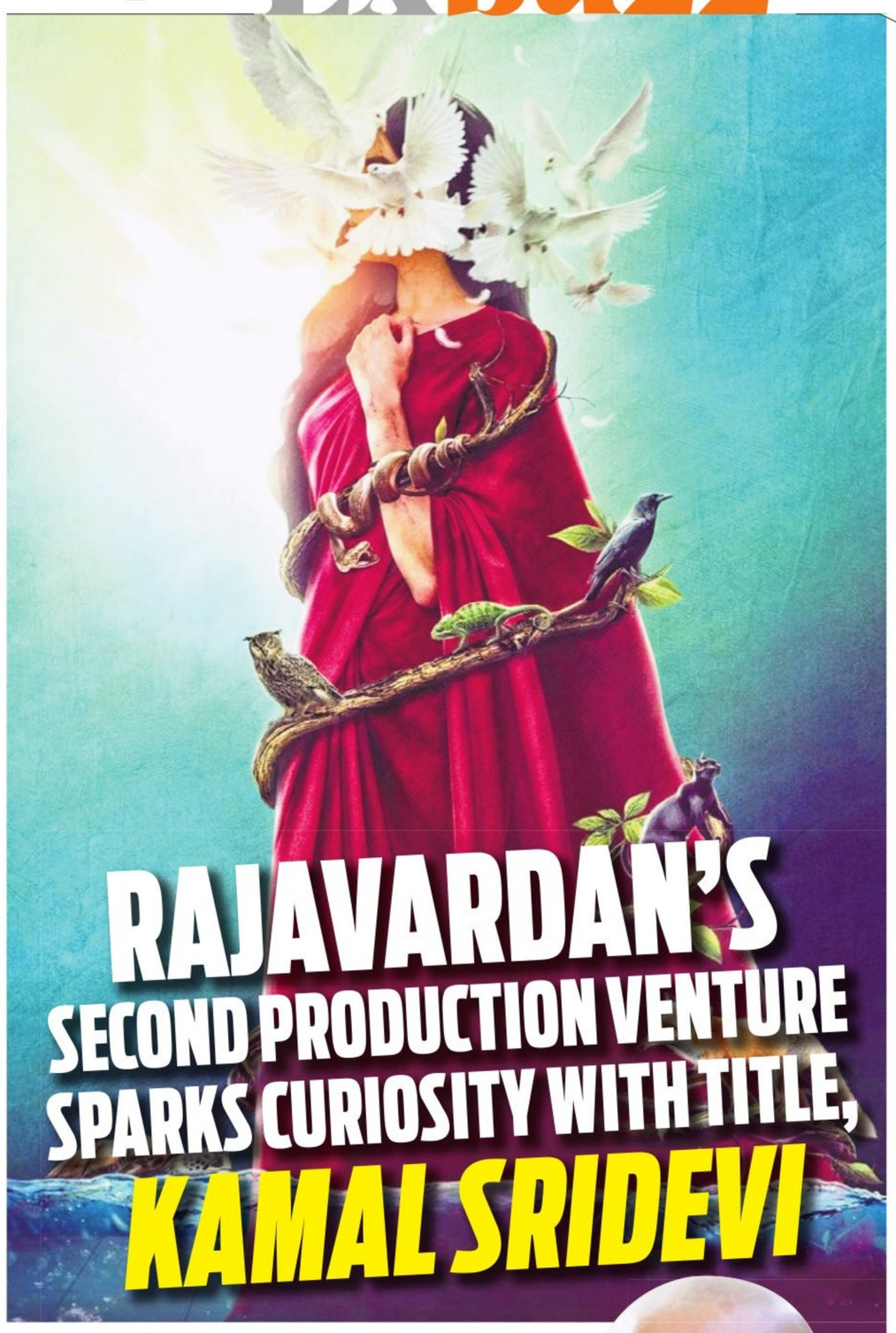

# RAJAVARDAN'S SECOND PRODUCTION VENTURE SPARKS CURIOSITY WITH TITLE, KAMAL SRIDEVI

Produced under the Barn Swallow Company and directed by VA Sunil Kumar, the film grabbed attention with its intriguing first look that features Kishore prominently

**A SHARADHAA**

ACTOR and Producer, Rajavardan, who recently announced *Jawa*, his debut production venture under his home banner, Barn Swallow Company, is now following it up with his second project. And, what's grabbing attention this time is the bold and intriguing title — *Kamal Sridevi*.

While an official announcement from the production house about the title and cast details is expected soon, Rajavardan confirms that VA Sunil Kumar, who previously directed Gajarama, is directing *Kamal Sridevi*. Noted South Indian actor Kishore plays a key role in the film, while the rest of the cast is being kept under wraps.

Given that Kamal Haasan and Sridevi were one of Indian cinema's most iconic onscreen pairs, having worked together in over 20 films, the title naturally sparks curiosity. However, Rajavardan clarifies, "*Kamal Sridevi*, as a title and subject, gives a whole new identity to the film. While people may instantly think of Kamal Haasan and Sridevi, this film has no direct reference to the actors or their films. It's a completely content-based subject," says producer Rajavardan.

Equally interesting is the film's first-look poster, which presents a visual puzzle. It features seven animals — a fox, chameleon, tortoise, snake, owl, crow, and a cat with pigeons.

"Coming from a visual background, I made sure to be involved in the creative aspects, especially in the poster's creation. Each animal or species represents a character in the film. The poster itself sets the tone and theme for the story," he explains.

As for the cast, the makers have brought together a strong lineup of actors. Kishore, known for his intense performances, plays one of the prominent roles. "Kishore is one of the finest actors in South India. In this film, every character has importance, and Kishore's role is a key highlight," adds Rajavardan.

While the rest of the cast will be revealed in stages, the team promises to spring up a surprise with their choice of female lead.

The film also brings together a skilled technical team, including art director Guna, known for his work in Kaatera, music director Keerthan, cinematographer Nagesh V Acharya and stunt choreographer Arjun Raj.

Kishore



Rajavardan

**CE FEATURES**

# What's coming will be worth the wait: Shanvi Srivastava

The actor, who took a break, talks about her return with a strong lineup, which begins with *Richie Rich*, directed by Suni, and a big Malayalam project

AFTER a quiet spell away from the silver screen, actor Shanvi Srivastava is making a fierce return, on her own terms. While audiences may have missed her presence, Shanvi spent the past year not in hibernation, but in careful curation, choosing stories that excite and challenge her.

"I rested for over a year. But that time wasn't wasted," she says. "I was hunting for the right subjects, something that resonated with me. Now, I'm back—and I'm ready to kill it in the next year."

Her first return to set was with acclaimed director Nagathihalli Chandrashekar for the much-anticipated *America America 2*. Reflecting on the experience, she shares,

"In a world where everyone's chasing mass and quirk, it's rare to find directors who master emotion. Nagathihalli sir is that filmmaker. His experience shows in how he shapes a moment—and that's where you strike emotional gold."

She's now gearing up for her next project—*Richie Rich*, directed by Suni, co-starring Karthik Mahesh, and produced by Aravind Venkatesh Reddy's AVR Entertainment. The film will go on floors this week.

"Every part of this film feels special. Working with Suni sir has been on my wishlist. I'm close to the AVR team, and my role is something I've never done before. It's a character people might love—or hate me for. But it will definitely get them thinking."

On co-star Karthik Mahesh, she adds, "He has this rare mix of innocence and mass appeal. He's new but carries himself with maturity. I think audiences are really going to enjoy seeing us together."

Shanvi is equally excited about her return to Malayalam cinema after *Mahaveeryar*. The yet-to-be-titled film, produced by CJ Roy's Confident Group in collaboration with veteran director VK Prakash, is set to explore the dark world of narcotics and stars Shine Tom Chacko as the antagonist.

"I'm joining hands with a popular production house and a seasoned director. It's an intense script, and the technical team is fantastic—Sam CS is doing the music, and Manoj Khatoi handling the cinematography" she reveals.

With three films lined up for release in the next year, Shanvi's slate is packed. "I took the time I needed. Now, I'm here to deliver. What's coming will be worth the wait."

Shanvi Srivastava

# I'M JUST A REGULAR GUY WHO FOLLOWED MY PASSION: NATARAJ

**CE FEATURES**

FOR Kaada Nataraj, balancing his marketing skills by day and chasing dreams by night has finally paid off. The marketing manager at a private company, who long aspired to be an actor, makes his debut with *Kari Kaada*, a film he describes as "a journey straight from the heart."

"I've always wanted to act," says Nataraj, adding, "But life took me into the corporate world. It was only with the support of my wife, Deepthi Damodhar, and family that I found the courage to make this leap." Deepthi has produced the film, which also features the couple's young daughter, Ridhi, starring in a key song, making *Kari Kaada* a true family affair.

Directed by Gilli Venkatesh, the film blends action, music, and emotion. The title Kari-Kaada itself holds deep meaning with Kari, which translates to elephant, symbolising strength, and 'Kaada' referring to the wilderness. Interestingly, Kaada is Nataraj's nickname, and according to the newcomer, the title justifies the film's story.

"The nickname Kaada goes back to my childhood. My hair often looked wild, and I had a short temper. People started calling me 'Kaada'. I hated it back then. But today, it's part of who I am. My father was a hunter, in his days, and this film is inspired by real incidents from the 1990s. I play a hunter, so the title fits perfectly," says Nataraj.

Nataraj

Nataraj trained in fight sequences and dance under Sannappa, and did his own stunts in the film. "I used my weekends and every bit of leave I had saved from work for shooting. It wasn't easy — but it was worth it."

Shot across scenic spots like Kalsa, Rani Jhari, Chikkamagaluru, Bengaluru, and Channapatna, the film is eyeing an October release. With songs by Athishay Jain, and a background score by Shashank Sheshagiri, the film also stars Nirikksha Shetty in the lead, with Kari Subbu, Vipin Prakash, Vijay Chendur, Yash Shetty, Raja Balawadi, and Chandra Prabhan playing key roles.

"I'm just a regular guy who followed my passion. If this *Kari Kaada* inspires even one person to chase their dream, it's all been worth it," concludes Nataraj.

# Deepika onboards Atlee, Allu Arjun film

**CE FEATURES**

ON Saturday, Sun Pictures confirmed Deepika Padukone's onboarding of Allu Arjun's film with Atlee, through an elaborate announcement teaser. The teaser features Deepika Padukone and Atlee in an intense script narration session, while also giving glimpses of the action-driven storyboard, which promises for the film to be a fantastical actioner. The teaser concludes with the visuals of Deepika getting ready for her role, which seemingly involves plenty of CGI mapping work. The teaser also showcases a few visuals of Deepika gearing up to shoot the action-packed sequences.

The film, tentatively titled AA22xA6, is being produced under the banner of Sun Pictures, with Kalanithi Maran onboard as presenter. The project was officially announced in April, featuring Allu Arjun, Atlee and a few Hollywood technicians discussing the sci-fi visual design for their film.

# A predictable campus drama with fleeting sparks

**A SHARADHAA**

SANJAY Malavalli's *College Kalavida* wears its heart on its sleeve—but somewhere along the way, forgets to be convinving. Cloaked in the energy of youthful pursuits, the film sets out on familiar terrain: campus romances, group loyalties, and the tipping point where dreams collapse. It begins with flair, but soon gets caught in a narrative loop.

Fronting the story is Arya (Aarav Surya), a campus painter with a quiet charm, bound to his mother and loyal to his gang. The arrival of Sarika (Chaitra Lokanath), a transfer student with quiet resolve, tilts Arya's world into colour. Their bond begins with playful tension and slides into affection, paced through shared glances, earnest exchanges, and hushed confessions.

What begins as a sunlit campus tale takes a grim detour when Arya is thrown behind bars—implicated in a drug scandal that stains his future and fractures his relationship. The script jolts from gentle to grim, but the tonal shift feels more mechanical than earned. What follows is not a journey through time, but one through trauma—of a boy pushed into silence and rage, now searching for answers and for the girl who once believed in him.

**COLLEGE KALAVIDA**

**Director:** Sanjay Malavalli

**Cast:** Aarav Surya, Chaitra Lokanath, Huli Karthik, and Harini Srikanth

RATING 2.5/5

The film tries to graft a cautionary thread about narcotics in educational institutions and the institutional indifference that feeds injustice. The concept has merit, but the storytelling struggles to elevate it. Rather than dig deep, the film coasts on surface-level conflict, choosing dramatic excess over emotional truth.

The early rhythm works—the first half is paced well, brisk yet immersive. But as the plot thickens, the writing loses its edge. It turns to clichés, pulling emotional levers rather than crafting meaningful turns. Dialogues become declarations, and characters stop evolving—they begin reacting.

Aarav Surya is earnest. His portrayal has restraint, especially in moments of emotional shutdown. Chaitra Lokanath, though convincing, is underutilised. Her arc disappears into the shadows of Arya's journey, offering little by way of agency or growth. Supporting roles played by Harini Srikanth and even Huli Karthik do little to alter the trajectory, though Ramesh Bhat's brief presence brings depth that lingers.

Technically, the film checks boxes without reinventing any. The visuals offer colour without texture. The background score swells when it should whisper. The campus, though vibrant, never feels lived-in.

*College Kalavida* plays it safe, even when it has every reason to roar. It touches on themes that demand grit—compromised youth, systems that fail, love under siege—but backs away before it bruises. It doesn't falter from a lack of heart but from an unwillingness to challenge its own comfort zone.

Rather than etching a lasting impression, the film follows well-trodden paths—pleasant to observe, yet seldom surprising. Still, it's a sincere attempt to marry youthful storytelling with a social pulse, even if it stops short of pushing the boundaries it hints at.